OPINION / A10

Ramon Farolan: We send contingents to other lands to help in humanitarian missions. Why can't we get our military more involved in community-building programs here at home?

WORLD / A20

After 9 months adrift at sea, 3 fishermen return to Mexico as folk heroes; some, however, doubt their story

LIFESTYLE / C1

The day hell bloweth over: A Filipino journalist recounts the ordeal of Katrina survivors

For religious geeks: A Bible in your laptop

By Christian K Esguerra

NOW YOU CAN INSTALL THE BIBLE IN YOUR laptop or PC and read it at home or in a cyber café.

An "e-Bible," translated in seven Philippine languages, is now available in CD format from the Philippine Bible Society.

This is the group's way of making the Scrip-

FOR RELIGIOUS Ao

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, August 27, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 31 / No. 260 P18 www.inq7.com

Disney invites Pluto to join Seven Dwarfs

LOS ANGELES—PLUTO may have been cast out to the darkest reaches of the solar system but it will always be a friend to the Seven Dwarfs.

The Walt Disney Co. characters issued a hard-hitting statement

DISNEY, A6

Fast action vs spill urged

PARADISE LOST. Four children and their pet look on helplessly as bunker oil creeps up through the mangroves and onto their beach playground in Barangay Tanda, Nueva Valencia, on the eastern Guimaras Island.

JOAN BONDOC

GMA orders DOJ to join probe to find culprit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

APPALLED BY THE DEVASTATION it has wrought and the misery it has inflicted on people, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday demanded swift action from Petron Corp., the shipowner and government agencies to clean up the ecological mess caused by the massive oil slick from a sunken tanker.

A day after declaring the Guimaras oil spill a national calamity, Ms Arroyo ordered the Department of Justice to join the investigation and find out what happened and "who is responsible" for the calamity.

Environmentalists have expressed fears of a bigger economic and ecological disaster in Western Visayas considering that 1.7 million liters of bunker fuel are believed still trapped in the belly of the sunken MT Solar I, which went down off Guimaras Island 15 days ago.

"I am personally pressing our governments, Petron, the shipowner and every responsible party to move quickly and decisively to clean up this eco-mess," Ms Arroyo said in a speech during a visit to Nueva Valencia, the hardest-hit town on Guimaras Island, to personally assess the situation and lead the cleanup and relief efforts.

"We want to make sure the sunken tanker is secured, the fuel safely off-loaded and this accident comes to a rapid conclusion."

Ms Arroyo expressed how "saddened I am to see our beautiful beaches besmirched by this accident and the pain I feel for the men and women who are in harm's way and who have had their health and livelihood affected."

Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap said the estimated 15 percent of oil that had leaked out of the tanker had already affected Guimaras Island's ecosystem—646 sq km of sea, 220 km of coastline, 1,143 ha of a national marine reserve and 454 ha of mangroves—as well as its people's livelihood, from fishing to tourism due to the massive uncollection of bookings.

"There are still 1.7 million liters inside the cargo hold slowly leaking out which is why locating the sunken tanker and either plugging it up or raising the oil up is very high on our must-do list. The final

A6/7 A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gay games, 'out' sports

LIFESTYLE / C5

For Keeps

LIFESTYLE AT HOME / E1

No parties for this royal: Andrea of Monaco would rather visit poor in Payatas than hobnob with the elite

METRO / A18

5 going on 'forever'

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

Satellite spots new oil slick near Guimaras

By Norman Bordadora

EVEN BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT could contain the disastrous oil spill off Guimaras Island, what appeared to be signs of another oil slick have been spotted by an environment watchdog in the Visayan Sea, another area rich in aquatic resources.

World Wildlife Fund for Nature in the Philippines (WWF-Philippines) said a satellite image it had received from the Canadian space agency Radarsat showed a 15-sq-km slick in the Visayan Sea.

Lorenzo Tan, president of WWF-Philippines, said Petron Corp. was conducting an aerial survey to find out whether or not the slick came from the MT Solar I which Petron had chartered and which sank southwest of Guimaras Island on Aug. 11.

"There is a protocol on oil finger printing. What they will do is take samples from the oil slick in the Visayan Sea and the one in Guimaras and compare if they came from the same source," Tan told the inquirer.

Tan said it was highly probable that the oil came from the sunken vessel in Guimaras.

"It's all just common sense. One, Guimaras was the only oil spill we had in the past two weeks. Two, it's consistent with the flow of the water current. It's also consistent with the flow of the Amihan (northwest monsoon) that blows in a northeasterly direction," he said.

"This can just be the crest of a leak," he added.

Tan said Petron bought the satellite image from Radarsat, which regularly supplies WWF-Philippines with such images.

He said WWF received the image and processed it before passing it on to the oil refiner. Petron then conducted an aerial survey to confirm the oil slick in the Visayan Sea.

In a statement last night, Petron confirmed it had sent out boats and planes to the area where the slick was, based on the satellite images.

"According to the Philippine Coast Guard, it's just a thin

SATELLITE, A6

FISHERMAN-TURNED-CLEANUP worker holds up examples of the lives affected by the spill.

Comelec says SC injunction vs initiative stands

By Jaruna Asing and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS will go by the existing Supreme Court ruling barring the election agency from acting on any petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution in the absence of an enabling law.

"The decision of the Supreme Court, till it is reversed, remains a law that everyone should abide by," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. told reporters yesterday.

However, Abalos would not say categorically whether the Comelec would reject outright the people's initiative petition filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines the other day.

He said the Comelec action would ultimately depend on whether the Supreme Court would allow it to finally consider the petition for a people's initiative to change the form of government to a parliamentary-unicameral system.

"We accepted [the filing of the initiative] as part of our ministerial job. We will endorse the petition to our law department for verification. And after verification, the petition will be sent to the Comelec en banc for disposal," he said.

Senators, who will be the first to lose their jobs if the presidential-bicameral system is pushed through a people's initiative, yesterday stressed parity lines to denounce what they called a "well-heralded, illegal and brazen" move to change the Constitution.

They are now counting on the Supreme Court, if not the Comelec, to strike down the petition.

In 1997, the high tribunal ruled that the existing law on referendums or initiatives, the Initiative or Referendum Act, or RA 6735 which Congress passed in 1989, was inadequate. Therefore, it said, the Comelec may not entertain any petitions for an initiative on reconstitutional amendments.

Abalos said that if the Comelec were to entertain the petition at all, it would not verify each of the 8.9 million signatures submitted by Sigaw and Ulap but only those of the local election officers who issued the certifications of verification.

Under RA 6735, the power of the people to directly propose and approve any changes to the Constitution through the system of initiatives or referendums would need the signatures of 12 percent of the total number of voters nationwide, and three percent of every congressional

COMELEC A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006
Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

'Pinning killings on GMA killed case'

By Norman Bordadora

THE INCLUSION OF IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT in the allegations blaming President Macapagal-Arroyo for the spate of political killings could have weakened the second bid of the opposition to unseat her, a lawyers group said yesterday.

The Competence and Responsible Education for Understanding the Law said the part of the complaint on extrajudicial killings could have convinced those members of Congress to junk it because it would have been difficult to pin down the President on the allegation that she had ordered the execution of more than 700 people.

"Blaming the President for the deaths of militant leaders was a "tough act" because the complainants would have had to prove that all of those killings were perpetrated by the government and, more importantly, that Mr Arroyo had "willfully blundered" to have them killed," said lawyer Jacinto Magno, Cenfel spokesperson.

"Holding the President responsible for the yet unsolved killings of members of dissident groups is too streamlined an allegation that would be sidetracked hard to establish under the present circumstances given that other parties with their own agendas or personal grudges to settle with the victims could be behind these assassinations," she got said.

The group's assessment came in the wake of Thursday's (17-31) vote by the House of Representatives to throw out the second impeachment complaint against Mrs Arroyo in so many years for lack of substance.

"The inclusion of this alleged cause of action in the second impeachment complaint had apparently helped prompt certain members of the House Justice committee to vote against it on the ground that it was sufficient in form but actually insufficient in substance," Magno said.

Alegre said that an objective view of the cases involving the killings of dissidents could refer to a number of possibilities as to who or what group might be behind them.

Although a number of killings could have been committed by certain elements of the military or police forces, Alegre said it was also probable that others could have been done by either of those groups: (1) persons out to settle personal grudges not to say way related to the politics of hostage of the victims, (2) shadowy groups out to destabilize the government, (3) ultra-rightist forces in the military and (4) communist elements themselves executing their allies in the open. Left either stoned to leave the movement or were guilty of "crimes" like extortion and abandoning with funds.

"I pecuing that all of the 700 killings being cited by the pro-impeachment group were all state-sponsored any of violence is already one tough act, thus providing evidence that would directly link Mr Arroyo to all of them appears quite to impossible," Alegre said.

"The kinder allegation against the President on these killings are unrelated too shaky that it already broke even before it could pass the scrutiny of the House justice committee," Alegre said.

House revives celebration of Arbor Day

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has approved on final reading a bill reviving Arbor Day, which is dedicated to promoting large-scale tree-planting and increasing public awareness of the importance of trees to human life, health and the environment.

Committee Sec Rep. Luis Villafuerte, the author of House Bill 3621, said the measure would require the country's presidents, cities and municipalities to declare an Arbor Day through appropriate proclamations by their leaders.

Local governments may fix the actual date every calendar year, and decide whether or not to declare it a public holiday on their areas. They will also be required to create Arbor Day celebrations committees.

"Arbor Day is a grand opportunity for everyone, including businessmen and business entities, to take stock of the trees in their properties and communities, and to plan how to best propagate and care for trees," Villafuerte said in a statement.

He said the first Arbor Day was marked on April 14, 1872, in Nebraska. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist who launched the first community-based tree-planting campaign, and who later became President Grover Cleveland's secretary of agriculture.

"Arbor" in Latin for "tree." The first Arbor Day was an astounding success, with more than one million trees planted in Nebraska, Villafuerte said.

Morton's idea inspired other states so that all 50 states in the US eventually proclaimed their own Arbor Day.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared the last Friday of April as National Arbor Day.

"Trees are vital cogs of nature's air purification process. They are our natural air conditioners and air purifiers, and our built-in energy-saving devices," Villafuerte said.

"Clearly, our atmosphere today would be far more heated, and our air far more lethal, if not for what is left of our trees," he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources launched on Friday the Gawad Pilipinas Highways program, which aims to tap one million volunteers to plant a record 50 million trees on both sides of major thoroughfares, from Laoag City in the north to Zamboanga City in the south.

Arbor Day is also celebrated in varying ways in Australia, Canada, China, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

With the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) embarking on a major upgrading of the South Luzon Expressway, a DENR official reminded the state-run company not to cut the trees that will be affected by the expansion.

The 24-km stretch of highway between Alabang and Calamba City is mainly planted to decades-old mahogany, acacia and apitong trees, according to Arsenio Perlaque, DENR regional executive director for Calabarzon.

Instead of cutting the PNCC is being asked to "fell" the trees and plant them elsewhere.

Felling is a method of cutting down trees by completely "harvesting" their roots and then planting them in another location. With Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PICTURE PERFECT
Magdalena Herrera-Leth, standing), art director and head of photography for National Geographic, presents examples of picture-stories in the international magazine during her lecture on The Role of Picture Editors, during the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers held recently at the Bayview Park Hotel. The magazine was one of the sponsors of the forum. EDDIE JR.

Canceled visit won't dampen ardor for princess

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA... HIGHLY contaminated from toxic wastes left in the former US military bases in this region were not able to see the son of their benefactor, Princess Caroline, but still the ceremony of the chairs and generosity of the royal from Monaco remain unhindered.

Princess Caroline's son, Andrea Pierre Casiraghi, was scheduled to visit the Mabalacat town fiesteat here on Saturday but the event was canceled.

About 200 male vendors and their relatives waited at a church in Mabalacat for the morning with the 22-year-old Casiraghi. In Subic, where he was also supposed to go, more than 100 people gathered for a show program.

"Of course, we were saddened that we did not get to see the princess' son. We did some preparations to relay our thanks to his mother. There is, we still love the princess," said Virginia Pangan, a local leader of the People's Task Force for Base Cleanup.

"There was a change in his schedule," said Myla Bahinondo, president of the alliance for Bases Cleanup.

Had Casiraghi been able to keep to the schedule, his visit would have happened exactly one year after Princess Caroline visited the mountainous site on Nov. 24, 2004.

During that visit, the princess held hands with sick children and embraced some of them, touching the hearts of residents.

Princess Caroline stayed just an hour but enough to make the visit memorable. She flashed a smile that, as one mother put it, "spread hope and courage."

Aside from the medical missions that Princess Caroline supports here through the Vidanes Foundation, Pangan said, the princess also wants U.S.-Philippine Garage to ask them to draw his attention to the poor health of children exposed to toxic wastes left at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales.

Bahinondo said there was a "clear body of evidence" on contamination" at Clark, at Subic and other American bases shut down starting in 1991 on the heels of the Senate's rejection of the extension of the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement. Dexter Cortes, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Women broadcasters come together for Greg Cendaña

By Fe B. Zamora

CENDAÑA

DOLE GREG CENDAÑA could have polished it off.

At his wake at Pianon in Pat to Quezon City Friday night, the country's top women TV broadcasters led by Korina Sanchez and Mel Tiangco took turns at their jobs to pay homage to the man who started them off on rewarding careers in television.

Cendaña, who was television executive since 1970 to 1986 during the Marcos regime, passed away Friday morning at the Philippine Heart Center after suffering cardiac arrest. He was 76.

Cendaña was also head of the government-owned Channel 4 television, which was the biggest network during the martial law years and set the training ground for female actors, especially women.

"Let it be said without any exaggeration that the country's top women TV anchors had their beginnings in Channel 4 under Minister Cendaña," said Ina Mendiola, former news director at Channel 4.

Sanchez anchors the evening newscast Bandila on Channel 2, while Tiangco anchors the rival Channel 7's evening newscast 24 Oras.

Broadcast journalists Cris Dilloo and Dorie Rigonan and newscaster Thelma Dumpit also started at Channel 4, Mendiola said.

Kris Lodil and Frehlie Mendiola, who also did newscasts were Channel 4, paid tribute to Cendaña with a short note in the guest book: "Thank you for the many memories of our broadcast careers. May the heavens welcome you joyously the way your life was lived."

Marabi said former Sen. Loren Legarda was a newscaster at the government-owned Channel 9 and also did newscasts for Cendaña at Channel 4. Then Malacañang Palma was an established radio announcer that also dabbled on television at the National Media Production Center (NMPC), the state-owned production outfit that Cendaña also headed.

Marabi said Cendaña gathered practically all the broadcasters who had lost their jobs when martial law was declared by President Ferdinand Marcos in September 1972 and employed them at Channel 4 and NMPC.

"He told us it was better than going underground," Marabi said with a laugh.

He said Cendaña was both a "three-driver and a eating father who expected us to work 24/hours."

"He was always saying that the deadline was yesterday," Marabi said.

He said Cendaña also started the so-called development communication by producing cultural, educational and public affairs shows and having three simulcasts over all the TV and radio stations nationwide.

An example of this was the Bulong-Bulong sa Kwelitasan which was aired every Wednesday at 7 p.m. all over the country.

In the program, Marabi said topics such as land reform, education, health and culture were "discussed and explained to the public."

With that, First Lady Imelda Marcos, timbits also packaged developmental shows and brought them to the rural areas through mobile vans and Betamax videotapes, Marabi said.

Cendaña's remains will be brought to San Nicolas, Pangasinan, his hometown, on Aug. 30. He will be buried here on Aug. 31.

Habacon exit leaves one "Hello Garci" general

By Dona Z. Pazybayan

THE SO-CALLED "HELLO GARCI" generals are falling away one by one.

Armed Forces Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, one of those linked to the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal, is retiring on Monday, Aug. 28, two weeks early because of his spinning of the Southcom.

Habacon, whose appointment as Southcom chief last January was marked by controversy, was supposed to retire on Sept. 9.

His retirement leaves AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as the "last man standing" of the "Hello Garci" generals.

Habacon, Esperon, ex-Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Ret. Romeo Tolentino and Mindoro Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani (ret.) were mentioned in the alleged wiretapped phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the height of the vote-canvassing for the May 2004 elections.

Esperon had ordered by the time the tapes surfaced in June 2005.

Gudani, who was mentioned in the tapes as being pro-opposition, retired in October 2005 after rejecting alleged election cheating in Lanao del Sur in a Senate investigation. He and Marine Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan are facing possible court-martial for ignoring orders not to appear at the Senate hearing.

The "Hello Garci" label, meanwhile, stuck on Habacon and Esperon even after they were cleared early this year by a military fact-finding board headed by Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga which did not fully disclose its findings to the public. Esperon continued to vehemently deny any involvement in election cheating after he was named AFP chief of staff on July 21.

Habacon belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class 1975, along with Mayuga, Air force Chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes and former Central Command chief Lt. Gen. Samuel Bugarin (ret.).

Bugarin was supposed to assume the post of Southcom chief in September 2005 were it not for last-minute lobbying purportedly by Habacon.

Habacon denied lobbying for the post. But he was named Southcom chief in January even though he had less than a year left to the service and thus could no longer be promoted to the next rank.

Tolentino's appointment was among the issues raised by disgruntled junior officers who mounted a coup attempt on Feb. 24.

He (Habacon) decided to retire early due to personal reasons. He may have planned it earlier," Southcom spokesperson Col. Ernesto Valeroso said in a phone interview.

Valeroso, however, conceded that Southcom's split may have prompted Habacon's early retirement. "It could be one of the reasons," he said.

Southcom, which counts about 60 percent of the 120,000-strong military force, will be split into the Eastern Mindanao Command which will be based in Davao City and the Western Mindanao Command whose headquarters will be in Zamboanga City.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Diamino will head the Eastern Mindanao command while Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo will head the Western Mindanao command.

Diamino used to lead the Army's 6th Infantry Division while Cedo used to head the 1st Infantry Division.

Esperon, Diamino and Cedo belong to PMA Class 1974, along with Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino and newly appointed deputy chief of staff for plans and programs (J5) Maj. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo.

According to Esperon, the split would allow military forces to focus on fighting the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist groups in the west, and the communist New People's Army in the east.

German bank says Mike A has no acc't

A BANK IN GERMANY HAS CERTIFIED THAT the family of President Macapagal-Arroyo has no account with them, contrary to claims by an opposition congressman, a lawyer for the Arroyo family said yesterday.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal did not say whether the Arroyo family will make good on an earlier threat to sue opposition Sing. Alan Peter Cayetano for saying they had hundreds of millions of dollars with the Deutsche Bank.

Cayetano made the claim during debates on the impeachment complaint against the President over accusations—all denied by his spouses—such as rigging the 2004 election, violating the Constitution and committing corruption and human rights abuses.

The impeachment bid was thrown out by the President's congressional allies on Thursday.

Macalintal traveled with Mr. Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, to Munich where they obtained a letter from bank officials saying the account number mentioned by Cayetano did not exist and that there was no account in the name of Mr. Arroyo's husband.

However, no certification was given for the President, her congressman son and her brother-in-law, Brig. Gen. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

In a statement, Eddie Arroyo said: "We have accomplished our mission of truth. We will bring the truth back home so that the ING Ignacio will know that I am telling the truth and Cayetano is peddling lies and, the one who fabricates evidence."

Cayetano was unfazed and insisted his interest and her husband's signs a waiver that would allow the opposition to examine their bank accounts in the Philippines and abroad.

He said the bank didn't have the account numbering system as disclosed by Cayetano, so release they were willing to give a few dates to join them in the trip to Germany.

"If Cayetano is still in doubt, we will be here until Monday and there is still time for him to come here," Macalintal said.

Cayetano refused to join the trip, saying it was a "media gimmick" that raised more questions such as why Mike Arroyo didn't just write to the bank for a certification and why didn't other family members also travel to Germany. AP

Greenpeace to Lafayette: So sue us

LEGAZPI CITY—GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS have dared Lafayette Phil. and Sonsogon provincial officials on the charges of trespassing and prove their accusations that the international environmental group went out to sabotage the mining firm.

"We challenge them to provide evidence and give the names of people they are accusing of sabotage," said Beau Baconguis, the Greenpeace campaigner for Southeast Asia.

Baconguis—members on board the group's campaign ship, the MS Esperanza, paid a visit to Lafayette's controversial copper and gold mine on Rapu-Rapu Island off the coast of Albay province.

There, the Greenpeace ship, which is here as part of a global campaign to defend the oceans, let a protest flotilla organized by local environmentalists demanding that the mine be closed down.

Last Thursday, Greenpeace released a statement claiming that tests conducted by its scientists confirmed "very high levels of toxic metals" in water samples collected from a creek allegedly contaminated by the Rapu-Rapu project.

The next day, Lafayette Phil. countered with a press statement saying it would take legal action against Greenpeace for trespassing and demanded the expulsion of three members who climbed on the company's conveyor belt on Thursday to unfurl intimidating banners for violent opportunity.

Emil Bayani Ignalio, Lafayette's legal counsel and spokesperson: "Greenpeace has gone out of bounds in its irresponsible and counterproductive photo-ops that unfortunately some media outlets fell for. Recently they misrepresented themselves at the DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] head office as they could go up the roof deck as photographers they had to now could take pictures."

Sonsogon Gov. Raul Lee has condemned the DENR incident. He said the intimidating campaigners had become destructive and must be dealt with by the authorities.

Lafayette also cited an incident a few weeks ago in which "unidentified people poured a huge amount of pesticide into a creek that is the source of clean water for the residents and started sending out text messages that Lafayette was to blame." Gina Rodrigues, Inquirer Southern Luzon

For religious geeks . . .

From page A1

rates television until widespread television, revolution and materialism—a global reality that involves no less than Pope Benedict XVI.

"We cannot allow the Holy Word to be left behind in these modern times," said the PBS in a statement. "If we are truly to engage our partners society in the Word of God, we have to do it through all positive media that exist today, and one of these is, of course, the computer."

The e-Bible which comes in Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocos, Hiligaynon, Pampanga, Maranao, Waray and Ilokano can be purchased at the PBS office on Magallanes Ave in Sta. Mesa, Manila, for P200.

It can also be had in the following versions: King James, English Standard, Contemporary English and Today's English or The Good News translation.

Each CD comes with a concordance, a mini-dictionary, a yearlong Bible reading plan and a manual.

"It is [as] easy to install and user friendly; [it] maximizes the Scriptural resources that are available to us," the PBS said. "The world is becoming smaller and smaller like all the gadgets that are coming out to the market. We are running fast towards a complete digital and paperless world, and it doesn't seem like we are going to be content with just that."

In the world's newest e-Bible, this time in Greek (being the language of the earliest manuscripts) and Tagalog, according to Fr. Oscar Alunday, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Biblical Apostolate.

Healing the country

Earlier, the PBS launched the Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Bibles written in Cebuano, Ilocano, Pangasinan, Hiligaynon, Waray, Samarenon and Ilonggo.

They targeted, not only the general Christian population, but also the BECs or the small communities of believers in the rural areas.

In a previous interview with the Inquirer, 1986 republican Fr. Ricardo Antonio said the new Bible could help heal and transform a country wounded by conflicts and worsening poverty.

The new Bibles—selling for P350 a copy—were made available to every BEC in the country, in the hope of spreading God's Word.

Grassroots Bible

Graduate Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, chair of the CBCP-BEC, defined the BEC as a "small grassroots community of believers that brings together families and individuals in intimate personal and social relationships based on faith."

More popularly known as "Simbahan Sambahayan" sibasi, these communities were more far around 50,000, Quevedo-server in a document appended to the new Bible.

"They can be a group of 5 to 10 people in a squatter community or in a high-rise building on Ayala," explained France Tarroja, marketing manager of PBS.

Through the Bible, ordinary Filipinos can become "agents of the gospel," according to Alunday.

"It's the heart, not the mind, talking to another person," Alunday explained, adding that a group motivated the Bible and then discuss how they could apply the teachings in their daily lives.

Popular with OFWs

The BEC Bible in Cebuano was launched late last year and was an instant success, selling out all 10,000 copies in just five months.

Copies, including the English version, have reached the Filipino communities in Europe.

There is a standing order for more copies in Germany, according to Alunday.

It helps that the new Bibles have a "user friendly" or glossary of terms such as Beelzebub, ephod and Deis. They also contain maps and a timeline of biblical events.

The Bibles are popular abroad because they help address a common sentiment of overseas Filipino workers.

"They complain that they had earned vacations are wasted by their families who have seen," Alunday said.

Before inducting the OFWs' families to the Scriptures, might bring them back to the right path, he said.

Disney invites Pluto to join Seven Dwarfs

From page A1

after the International Astronomical Union drank up the solar system Thursday when it declared that Pluto was no longer part of the cosmic club and downgraded it to a "dwarf planet."

School textbooks would have to be rewritten—and Mickey Mouse's faithful companion, according to Disney hardcore, was in anguish over the fate of his planetary namesake.

But the Seven Dwarfs were not take it lying down.

"Although we think it's DOPEY that Pluto has been downgraded to a dwarf planet, whistle has made some people GRUMPY and others just SLEEPY, we are not BASHFUL in saying we would be HAPPY if Disney's Pluto would join us as an eighth dwarf," they bemoaned. "We think this is just what the DOC ordered and is nothing to SNEEZE at."

Disney's Pluto (the dog) made his debut in 1930—the same year that 24-year-old American astronomer, Clyde Tombaugh, discovered what was called the ninth and outermost planet.

A white-gloved, yellow-eared source close to Disney's top dog said: "I think the whole thing is goofy.

"Pluto has never been interested in astronomy before, other than maybe an occasional howl at the moon."

Mickey Mouse was unavailable for comment.

Vote for Pluto

Scores of bitch-savvy adults hoping to support Pluto and earth treat its demotion to a "dwarf planet" had bombarded the Internet handing names, tabilis worthy of presidential candidate, from Tabasco and soups to bumper stickers and message pads.

Dr Colaprico.com, a Coral Springs-based pet insurance company that joins Tribute and other merchandise, an explosion of Pluto inventory popped up within 24 hours of the news. By Friday morning, the site featured 200 designs on more than 1,500 products.

Many items and slogans hinted over Pluto's demise and plead for the restoration of the chubby-nose planet to solar system. Tshirts contained "Honk if Pluto is still a planet."

"Honk if Pluto is still a planet."

PLUTO BOOSTER: Bumper sticker rallies support for the demoted dwarf planet.

"Pluto's Not Dead" and "Planetary Discrimination" while bumper stickers rallied "PLUTO 2006: Standing up for Independent Candidates" and "Vote for Pluto."

Others were more woeful. "Pluto, we hardly knew ye . . . 1930-2006" was available on t-shirt and CD with appropriate wails and sags and bags.

Bumper stickers

Los Angeles-based Web programmer Chris Spurgeon took 15 minutes to design a bumper sticker on his own, featuring a bubble Space Telescope image and the slogan "Honk if Pluto is still a planet."

"I'm not burning with anger about the Pluto decision, but it has troubled a mere with a lot of people," said Spurgeon, 31, whose sister is obsessed with bumper stickers.

On Friday morning, Spurgeon had received 100 orders for his bumper stickers, which cost $4 (P197) each. He plans to donate the money to the Planetary Society, a space advocacy group.

Cafepress.com spokesperson Mary Coulis said the spike in Pluto-related products probably reflected people's dismay. He said the Pluto items were "hot," but it's too early to tell how well they would sell.

"Pluto's a planet we've known all our lives and suddenly it's not. People are taken by surprise," Coulis said.

Cultural loss

Jennifer Vaughn of the Planetary Society was inflated to see the surge in Pluto merchandise given the unwarranted attachment to the former ninth rock from the sun.

She said: "The scientific has certainly supported Pluto as a planet," Vaughn said. "They see it as a bit of a stellar object."

In 1999, when Pluto's planethood was threatened, a barrage of letters from schoolchildren worldwide prompted the professional assessment group to issue a new public statement affirming Pluto's status. It's too early to know how the latest rolls around Pluto would affect its demotion, if at all.

No more Pizza

Meanwhile, Pluto's demotion could spell confusion in learning for solar system.

"My Very Excellent Mother Just Ate Us Nine Pizzas" was a popular mnemonic that helped students of people from the names of the planets in the solar system—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

With any Pluto downgraded to a dwarf, the mnemonic was spoiled.

How will students learn the plan- ets? Here are some suggestions:

- My Very Enthusiastic Mother Just Sent Us Nachos.
- My Very Elderly Mother Just Sits Up Nights.
- Major Volcanoes Erupt, Mid- dle Earth Shaking Unusually Serves.
- Rider Very Immediately Made of Jell-O, Scratches and Smashed Nuts.
- Mary's Violet Pets Make Jack Shout Until Shocked.
- My Very Frantic Minerva Just Showed Up Rude Ipechapo Ate me in his college halls. AFP and AP

Comelec says SC injunction vs initiative stands

From page A1

(BOX).

Sigma ng Senate leader Raul Lambino said the election officers were able to verify six million signatures, which represents 11 percent of the total voting population.

University of the Philippines professor Ilona Bautista, a member of the One Voice-Act Now! group which is opposed to the people's initiative, said an outright rejection by the Comelec would give the opposition advantage in the Cha-cha advocates as it would mean the issue would go straight to the SC which would then make an early decision on whether or not to exercise the 2007 ruling.

Reckless disregard

Senators pointed out that a people's initiative could only be used to propose amendments, not the revision of the Charter which they said was the aim in the Iglesia Ng Diyos petition seeking a change in the form of government.

Senate Minority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that as a public official he felt it was his solemn duty to "oppose this brazen and reckless disregard of the fundamental law."

"This organized and well-funded disregard of our fundamental law is the most serious attack thus far on Philippine democracy since the martial emergency of the late 1960s. Ultimately we hope the Supreme Court will step in and save Philippine constitutional democracy as we know it from this assault," Pangilinan said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the issue would ultimately touch the high court because if the Comelec validates the petition, those opposed to it would elevate the matter to the Supreme Court.

"The filing of the petition is nothing but another ploy by Malacañang through its front group, Iglesia ng Diyos, to show its power and influence over our democratic institutions," said opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino.

Administration Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile opposed opposition the high court would uphold its earlier ruling.

Unrealistic

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said senators were not opposed to Charter change per se but only to the timing, the method and the proponents behind the moves.

On the unanimous opinion being prepared by Iglesia Ng Diyos, the Senate will be abolished to give way to a single legislature.

Angara said that for the Senate to agree to convene as a constituent assembly with the House, this proposal should be shelved.

"That is impossible. And the public won't accept it," he said, saying a second chamber was important to serve as a check to the other chamber.

Angara, who is for Charter change and a parliamentary system, said Cha-cha was "dead" as far as timing was concerned because there simply was not enough time to do it, considering the 2007 elections.

He said he preferred for the Charter to be amended after the 2007 elections so that the new Congress would be the one to convene itself as a constituent assembly.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said Charter change was the country's "last chance for change" to break the "deadlock in our democracy" and end the political standoff between the Senate and Malacañang.

'No coup, no impeachment'

De Venecia said Cha-cha would free the country from "near-debilitating coup or conspiracy frequent impeachment crises."

He said it has historically there have been no coup attempts or impeachment crises "in all

ABALOS: SC decision "reminds a law."

DE VENECIA: "Last chance for change."

the successful parliamentary governments in Europe and Asia."

De Venecia reiterated that the Philippines was lagging behind its neighbors in Southeast Asia economically and further stated "being overtaken by the poorer countries of the region and of South Asia."

He said the latest public opinion surveys had demonstrated that most Filipinos were now in favor of Charter change and "have endorsed the people's initiative as the most favored mode of introducing amendments."

He said recent surveys also showed that support for a constitutional convention had fallen, that it was "the least favored" means of revising the Constitution.

Best features

The Speaker said that if the proposed amendments was carried, the Philippines would adopt the best features of the parliamentary governments of Europe and Asia and those of the US-style federal system.

"Essentially, we will have to revolve our own indigenous system that will suit the Filipinos' culture best," he Venecia said.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez yesterday said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' position on Charter change remained the same: "We are against the present moves to change it."

He called on the public to be vigilant against the "powers that be" who he said were behind the initiative.

"As we know in our country there are many powerful people manoeuvering every that are happening. That's what we feel happened in the impeachment complaint [against President Macapagal-Arroyo] and that's what's happening also now with regard to Cha-cha," he told reporters.

In a pastoral letter it issued last June, the CBCP said there should be widespread public discussion of the proposed changes and that this would be best done through a constitutional convention. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

THE PESO EXCHANGE RATE:
Why Are We So Poor?

KING JAMES
3-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
(SEPT. 5, 6, 7, 2006, 10:30 A.M.)
EDISON POWER PLANT
(65MW PLANT)
The Power Plant may be sold as a whole or by lots this engine will make prior to auction sale
(Inspection for registered bidders: AUGUST 31, 2006)
AUCTION SITE: LUZON AVENUE, BEZ, MARIVELES, BATAAN

MEDICard - Sanyo Capacitor Signing

Sanyo-Capacitor Phils. Exec., one of the leaders in manufacturing quality and globally competitive components, recently signed contracts with MEDICard Philippines to provide its employees with MEDICard plus benefits. (L-R) Melinda R. Alvarez (Sales & Marketing Dir.), Engr. Lito S. Montoya (COO & GM) with Sanyo's Masahide Ohashi (President) and Satoshi Ogawa (EMA) Asst. Mngr.). Looking (L-R) MEDICard's Omar Cantos (Membership Consultant), Robert Claustro (Sr. Membership Consultant), Bernard Pobeda (Sr. Membership Consultant) and Sanyo Francisco Odlig, Jose Louis Sanyo's Bernadette Navarro (Company Nurse) and Monica Bulos (HRA-G. Supervisor).

Gonzalez: UP breeds destabilizers, naked runners

By Armand N. Nocum

GONZALEZ

THE TOP JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez has pitched on the University of the Philippines school system, saying it mainly produces militant protesters and destabilizers and even runners who run around the campus naked.

"That school breeds the destabilizers that haunt the country year after year. They are serving us if they are the only ones who know how to run the country," Gonzalez told the Inquirer yesterday.

He made it clear, however, that he was not assailing the entire university population because "there are many students there who are bright and good."

Interviewed by phone while he was with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Guimaras, Gonzalez pointed to the Diliman part of the UP community as another incubation of the kind of students that came from UP.

"I don't say that is them because they tolerate the running of naked people.... That's also one kind of tolerance that they develop there," he said, noting that women had begun to join the naked run as well which is held in December.

"Maybe we are going to that direction... there are now women running naked. I will not be surprised if they will go to school with only their books, nothing more," he said.

Gonzalez made the statements while lamenting that UP was the site of numerous protest rallies and symposia calling for the resignation of President Arroyo.

"In every storm that takes place, UP students are in the forefront," he said. "As a matter of fact, our history will show that since the martial law years, students from UP were the ones who went underground and fought the government. In fact, many of them went to China and never came back."

Bomb-making in labs

Gonzalez said he came to see the militant activities of UP students first-hand during the First Quarter Storm of 1970 when then Sen. Gregorio Magsaysay ferried a prominent rebel into the UP when persons there and he saw pillbox bombs being assembled in the school laboratories.

He said this was not the way the academe should repay the government for giving them a world-class education.

"They should consider the fact that the state is the one paying for their schooling. Why fight the state? Why try to bring it down. I think some degree of gratitude should be there also," he said.

He noted that UP had always been known as a "cradle of leadership" but he was worried that with the way some students there were acting, some serious questions would be raised about the "kind of leaders we will have in the future."

But he said he was "not degrading UP per se," but was only questioning the kind of students that came from it.

'I am well-behaved'

He said the matter of the high "tolerance in education freedom" should be raised to UP officials and students during the annual budget hearing for the school.

Asked what school he graduated from, Gonzalez replied: "University of the Visayas... that's why I am well-behaved."

Gonzalez is known for speaking his mind on most issues and creating controversy.

Earlier, when he was asked if he was going to accept the wishes of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. for including to coalition when she spoke out against President Arroyo, he said she was too pretty to be arrested.

Another time when it was revealed that he was undergoing treatment for kidney stones, he said that was not what made him loosen up but smoker against criticism of Ms Arroyo.

"What does Dancing that built [to say things] get to do with that?" he said when he was asked if the painful passing of stones to his system was the reason he was grouchy to critics and media people.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 27, 2006
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

Renewal at Shechem

Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and invited the elders, leaders, judges and servitors; and together they presented themselves before God.

Addressing the people, Joshua said to them: "Yahweh, the God of Israel, commands me to say to you: Your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River in the farther of Abraham and Nahor serving other gods.

But if you do not want to serve Yahweh, make known this very day whom you shall serve—whether they be the gods your ancestors served in Mesopotamia or the gods of the Amorites who formerly occupied the land in which you now live. As for me, I and my household shall serve Yahweh."

The people answered: "May God forbid that we ever abandon Yahweh to serve other gods! For it was he who brought us and our ancestors out of Egypt, the house of slavery. It was he who did those great wonders then that we have seen; he protected us on the way and through all the vast nations we passed, driving away before us all the nations especially the Amorites who lived in this land. So we shall also serve Yahweh, for he is our God!"

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Christian marriage

Let all kinds of submission to one another become obedience to Christ. Be obedient as their husbands do to the Lord.

The husband is the head of his wife, as Christ is the head of the Church, his body, of whose he is also the Savior. And as the Church submits to Christ, so let a wife submit in everything to her husband.

As for you, husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, to consecrate and cleanse her with the baptism in the Word. As he wanted a radiant Church without stain or wrinkle or any blemish, but holy and blameless, he himself had to prepare and present her to himself.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. And no one has ever hated his body, he feeds and takes care of it. That is just what Christ does for the Church, because we are a part of his body.

Scripture says: Because of this a man shall leave his father and mother to be united with his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a very great mystery, and I refer to Christ and the Church.

Gospel: John 6:60-69

The Challenge

After hearing his disciples, many of Jesus' followers said, "This language is very hard! Who can accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about this and so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then how will you react when you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

From the beginning Jesus knew who would betray him. So he added, "So I have told you, no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the holy one of God."

Commentary

Joshua called the people together and steadily demands whether they stand before God. And the people promise that they will serve no false God as their ancestors were called to serve when brought out of Egypt into freedom, and we are to obey the Lord. Married couples are to obey the Lord and to love one another as God loved all of us. Each submits [first to Christ and then together to Christ Jesus] words are spirit and life-giving and there are many who leave Jesus because of his words. When asked why he stays Simon Peter proclaims that they all have come to believe that Jesus is God's Holy One. Since we all come to believe that and do see why and never told others, Jesus' Body Are we set to, or have we submitted ourselves to others?

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Pag-Ibig offers loans for spill victims

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERDAY ASKED the Pag-Ibig Fund to provide emergency loans to victims of the Guimaras oil spill.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), ordered Pag-Ibig president Romeo Quimbo to immediately send personnel to process the loan applications of the victims.

Quimbo said there were about 1,000 victims who would qualify for the loans. He said he would send his service Guimaras next week to start the processing of loan applications.

Speaking on his weekly radio program, De Castro appealed for donations of human hair and chicken feathers to be used as clean up for the oil spill.

He said that David's Salon had set up collection areas for hair in its branches for shipment to Guimaras Island. Cynthia D. Rivera

EXTRAORDINAIRE, THAT'S what a worker in-red is Sunshine Maritime Corp., owner of the tanker that spilled hundreds of thousand of liters of bunker oil in the Guimaras Strait, looks like as he loads a big bale of rice straw onto an outrigger in La Paz, Nueva Valencia. The straw will help absorb the oil spilled by the sunken tanker. (AFP)

Fishermen no more

By TJ Burgonio

GUIMARAS—THIRTY-EIGHT the sea, at least for now and they no longer look like fishermen.

Three days, you'll find a cluster of them on the shore, wearing protective masks, rubber gloves and boots, shoveling oil-stained sand into sacks and selling all day.

Their women help out by selling oily mangrove leaves to tourists.

The fishermen of Patrik Barangay in Nueva Valencia town have stopped paddling out to sea to look for catch. Desperate to earn money many of them spend their days cleaning the shoreline the oil slick, which has threatened to wipe out their main source of livelihood: fishing.

The slick comes from the tanker MT Solar 1, which sank off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11.

Measly sum

For the "dirty job," Sunshine Corp., which had chartered the tanker, pays them at least P200 each day—a paltry sum compared to their earnings from their catch.

But they're getting by.

"Some do not find it a job appealing, but I do. This is better than having no job at all," said Jun Magbanua, 28, a fisherman who moonlights as a jeepney driver in the mangrove-lined, quiet coastal town.

Many are thankful

Magbanua looked weary from hours of grappling with the filth.

Most stranded thankful they had a job, even if it meant cleaning up someone else's mess.

"I am thankful we have a job and are getting paid by Petron," said fisherman Israel Gandeza, 51, a father of five. "At least, we have ready cash to buy school materials for our children."

Nueva Valencia, together with Sibunag and San Lorenzo towns, was among the worst hardest hit by the spill.

No bans in the sea

The fisherfolk beg for the day when the oil spill would be cleaned up and they could set out to sea again to their harvests.

"It's a different thing if we go to fish ourselves. We earn P500 to P1,000 from our fishing, and we can take a rest in between. In fishing, we don't have any boss," Magbanua said.

HEISSED UP President Macapagal-Arroyo inspects the beach at La Paz, Nueva Valencia, on Guimaras Island to assess the extent of the damage caused by what she called an "eco-crime." (AFP)

Satellite spots new oil slick . . .

From page A1

sheen and not an actual oil slick. It's not a threat," the Petron statement said.

"Boats have been seen in the mouth of Guimaras Strait to ensure that the oil is contained. We'll have more satellite photo taken," it added.

The satellite image was taken on Aug. 20. At that time, the oil slick measured 10 km in length and 16 sq km in area.

"Spaceborne radar imagery suggests that the slick is moving eastward toward southern Iloilo province, entering Iloilo and northern Capiz," WWF-Philippines said in a statement.

Habitat destruction

The said the threat of habitat degradation was particularly high in the Visayan Sea. "WWF calls for all concerned agencies to maintain the dock before it reaches the coastal communities of Iloilo, Bilirán and Leyte."

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has said that the atmospheric conditions and ocean currents prevailing at this time of the year move from southwest to northeast.

The Visayan Sea, Iloilo, Bilirán and Leyte are considered to be general direction from the site of the Guimaras oil spill and the estimated position of the sunken tanker.

The Visayan Sea is a deep basin rich in nutrients and plankton, said WWF-Philippines.

Oil spill persists

"It presents a diverse assemblage of sharks and rays, giant clams and other mollusks, and economically valuable blue crabs," the group said.

Green and (unskilled) turtles have been reported to feed in the area. The area is also a feeding and migration area for small pelagic fishes such as mackerel, sardines, anchovies as well as small tuna. Shallow areas have mangrove, seagrass, seaweed, hard and soft bottom habitats," it added.

Various agencies have yet to find out the exact location of the sunken vessel although Petron has already been quoted as saying it plans to suck out the estimated 1.7 to 1.8 million liters of oil still in the sunken oil tanker.

The Philippine Coast Guard said the Solar 1 was still spewing 200 to 250 liters of bunker fuel an hour as of yesterday and it still had no definite solution to the problem of removing the rest of the fuel trapped in the tanker.

Luis Tuason, PCG commander for Western Visayas, said he did not know the condition of the sunken bunker fuel tanker and that the possibility of their exploding still existed.

Warding off the threat

He said two Coast Guard ships were at the site spraying dispersants to prevent the fuel from reaching land and that, as of yesterday, three fuel barges had arrived from Bataan province to help contain the oil slick.

Tuason said the barges were ordered to stay away from the oil spill because of fire hazard.

Meanwhile, Petron said it had already set up two command centers to monitor the oil spill and coordinate the cleanup operations.

Petron said it had also set up a hotline for those who want to help in the cleanup operations.

Petron said it had also set up a hotline for those who want to help in the cleanup operations.

Fast action vs spill urged

From page A1

solution has yet to be made," said Pajo who accompanied the President on a morning of the National Disaster Coordinating Council in Nueva Valencia.

Tanker might sink deeper

Pajo said Mr Arroyo had ordered all government agencies concerned to draw up a comprehensive impact assessment report within two weeks to three months on the extent of the damage caused by the oil spill on marine and human life in the area.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes told the business no specific timetable had been set for the salvaging of the remaining oil in the Solar 1 considering that the authorities had yet to determine its operable locations and position where it sank off the southern coast of Guimaras Island.

Reyes said the government needed to act fast considering that the tanker was feared to be sinking deeper, which would make salvaging operations more difficult.

Pajo said Petron Corp. had advised the NDCC that the Japanese salvage ship it hired would arrive tomorrow.

3 to 5 years

"Petron is footing all the bills which it will charge to its insurance. Petron chair Mr Aboitiz has also committed the company to stay in Guimaras for three to five years to implement and remedy the cleanup and rehabilitation efforts," Pajo said.

Mr Arroyo said investigators should find out who was culpable.

"There will be a full investigation of this entire matter to determine what happened, who is responsible and what steps we need to take to make sure that this type of accident does not happen again," she said.

She also ordered a "meticulous and rapid assessment" of the situation by the Department of Health.

Task Force Sunrise

The DOH has been ordered to set up mobile hospitals and get ready with its evacuation procedures.

Pajo said the government's effort in the Guimaras oil spill—dubbed Task Force Sunrise—had expanded from cleanup to restoration.

He said the President also asked Petron to take the allowance of volunteers working to clean up the rich from P300 to P500 a day. Mr Arroyo directed all livelihood packages to non-fishermen made up for their fishing losses—102 packets of chicken in packet includes rice weaver and 11 hens), 182 packets of piglets (each consists one boar and 3 sows), 3,500 packets of vegetables and 14 20-foot mechanized barges, all meant to make up for the loss of income from fishing.

"We're slowly shifting from cash for relief to cash for work programs," Pajo said.

Fish safe

Pajo also stressed that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had declared that oysters, crabs for human feeders such as shellfish and scales, the fish caught off Pandan Visayas waters were safe to eat because they are able to collect every form the oil spill.

Yap said Mr Arroyo herself would lead the way in bringing back tourists to and areas by the oil spill. He said the President would spend one night in one of Guimaras Island's resorts to show that the oil spill was largely contained in the island's southern portion.

The NDCC reported that private companies had heeded Mr Arroyo's call for cooperation and they included San Miguel Corp. (which has committed to provide 700 liters of tapioca dusts for the absorption of oil) and Royal Cargo.

Manilaite untouched

Yap detailed reports that the oil spill had spread to the coast of Manilaite.

He said the government had ordered a simultaneous study of Western Visayas assets to determine the direction of the oil spill based on the tide and the wind while deploying interventions boats off the coast of Negros Occidental to avoid oil's the slick.

Yap said that his visit to the hard-hit towns of Guimaras Island showed that the oil spill could be contained with a concentrated effort by all sectors.

"I came here expecting to see gobs of oil everywhere but other several days of cleanup work, there has been a dramatic improvement in the waters," he said.

Lebanese employers blocking OFWs' exit, says Noli

By Cynthia G. Balana

LEBANESE EMPLOYERS ARE scrubbing back or fleeing Filipino workers by asking immigration officials on the Lebanon-Syria border to stop them without valid exit visas and unused documents, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers and head of Task Force Lebanon, said that some Lebanese employers had bought off officials by the Philippine embassy in Beirut to pick up their Filipino domestic helpers who wanted to be repatriated.

He said that Lebanese immigration officials at the border were under pressure from employers not to let employees who believed they had been shortchanged by the untimely departure of their Filipino maids and the sudden termination of their contracts.

"Of course, are you't blame those employers because they re-

US publisher sending call center jobs to RP

NEW YORK—PUBlishing and broadcaster Tribune Co. on Fri. day said it will cut 250 call center jobs as it fi ts daily newspapers and continuous them functions to a U.S.-ccntcr ty with operations in the Philippines.

The cuts involve 120 full-time jobs and 130 part-time jobs and would affect pe sons work in the Chicago Tribune, Newsday on New York's Long Island and The Baltimore Sun.

The cuts amount to almost 1 percent of Tribune publishing operations and will take place through the fifi of 2006 and into early 2007, spokesperson Jeff Weber said.

Tribune, like other newspaper publishing, is trying to shave its expenses as newsprint and production costs rise, readers go elsewhere to get their news and advertisers pull back on spending or move it to other media.

ADVC Customer Services, based in Brookfield, Illinois, will take over the call center operations. Calls for Tribune will go to ADVC's operations in the Philippines.

No employees named at the Orlando Sentinel that was quoted on the Bloomberg journalism Web log said that employees could apply for other open positions in the company, and that those who did not get a job would receive a severance package.

Bcrko confirmed that the memo, signed by Sentinel publisher Kathy Waltz, was authentic.

"The intensely competitive media environment we find ourselves in and the changes happening within our industry make it imperative that we explore ways to meet the needs of our readers and advertisers," Waltz wrote in the memo.

Several companies, including The New York Times Co. and Belo Corp. have announced job cuts and layoffs.

Other companies are trying to save money similar to Tribune. No. 2 111 newspaper publisher McClatchy Co. last week said it would cut an unspecified number of customer service call center jobs as it flee newspapers in California, Reuters.

The
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
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SEPTEMBER 18 to NOVEMBER 29, 2006

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I to P - OCTOBER 2 to 27, 2006
Q to Z - NOVEMBER 6 to 29, 2006

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BRAVIA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Politics of 'balut'

EDITORIAL

AT ONE POINT IN THE SHRIMPLY UNTHINKABLE plenary session in the House of Representatives last week, when the sometimes vicarious and often tense vote on the second impeachment complaint was finally held, minority Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano pulled off what could generously be described as a rarefied political stunt.

Despite what he suggested were the insulting attitude and the lack of responsiveness on the part of the administration congressmen defending the committee report on the impeachment complaint, Cayetano said he held no grudges, and in fact had a peace offering for the President's defenders: three "balut" eggs. Then, like a practiced comic, and to the gallery's great amusement, Cayetano pulled the eggs out from his coat.

Without missing a beat, administration stalwart Rep. Lois Villafuerte replied: "I accept those three *balut* eggs. I hope they're not rotten." The crowd keeping watch on the proceedings roared in laughter.

We do not know what the voluble spokesman of the minority's impeachment campaign was up to; perhaps he was simply advertising his local roots, since he hails from the legislative district comprised of the *balut*-making municipalities of Taguig and Pateros.

Perhaps he was merely trying to defuse the tension in the session hall, which at that particular time, at around midnight of Thursday, was rather intense. Or perhaps he was only prepared to take political advantage of the televised moment, with a maneuver designed to be talked about for some time to come. (An exasperated Rep. Edcel Lagman, the main sponsor of the committee report, once tried to cut off Cayetano's many attempts to read the opposition's evidence of presidential wrongdoing into the records, by advertising to Cayetano's much-rumored-about senatorial ambitions. "You show this supposed evidence on TV but there's nothing about it in the complaint. Maybe the senator has already gotten enough mileage from this," Lagman said.)

We don't think the son of a late senator and the brother of a sitting member of the Senate is entirely unaware of these nuances, but that is neither here nor there.

What is at issue (and we say this without tongue in cheek) is Cayetano's choice of peace-offering. We think it is actually more revealing, of the perilous state of our representative democracy, than even the many suspicious statements of members of the House majority may have thought.

Balut, of course, is a fertilized duck egg; to eat this specialty is to consume a duck embryo.

Like the political pronouncements of noble intentions and provocations of popular will that accompanied the majority vote, *balut* must be taken with more than a pinch of salt.

Like the administration coalition's rush to judgment on the second impeachment complaint, *balut* requires a speeded-up schedule of incubation and preparation. The timetable is very nearly all; like the schedule the majority gave itself, *balut* making is a matter of mere days.

Not least, the majority politics behind the decision to dismiss the second complaint, like *balut* itself, is premised on the killing of the young. In the Philippines, impeachment as a mode of or an expression of the constitutional requirement of public accountability is only in its embryonic stages. While elections remain the principal way to hold political officials accountable—famously expressed as the regular opportunity to "throw the rascals out"—a mature democracy must have other, more regular means to turn accountability into reality.

Impeachment, in constitutional law, is a "terrible sword"—cumbersome, perhaps, in fact waiting in its sheath hard, fraught with risk. But it was designed precisely to pin the highest officials of the land to the highest standards. It takes some work, because it is a sword-like. But if its use is required, then it must be drawn, not merely shaken in its scabbard.

It could not have been the intention of the Constitution's framers that politics alone—expressed cynically in the formula that voting is only a numbers game—decide impeachment matters. The legal language the Constitution uses in providing for impeachment is already proof that it cannot be merely political. But instead of helping the democratic project grow in maturity, by dealing squarely with impeachment on the issues rather than by the numbers, the administration coalition has stunted its growth. It has feasted on the young.

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A practical alternative

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

DURING THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL CAMpaign, I spoke and wrote against Fernando Poe. At one the ground that as a high school drop out who carefully evaded scheduled debates with the other candidates, he was hardly qualified to serve in the position he was presumptuously seeking as President of the Philippines.

The did not mean I was campaigning for President Macapagal Arroyo with her impeccable educational qualifications. The fact is that I did not remember either because she seemed to me too pretentious with her cheap politicking and opportunism, too for accepting member ship and prejudice in President Estrada's Cabinet although she was then the head of the opposition.

My candidate was Raul Roco, a respected lawyer who had earlier proved his leadership as a legislator, especially in the Senate, and his administrative abilities as education secretary. I knew his days were already numbered but I cast a conscious vote for him just the same as a salute to a worthy public servant and to set an example to the mostly indiscriminate electorate.

Looking back, I feel it would have been more practical to vote for FPJ, who was the man in front GMA with his vast appeal to the masses despite, or because of, his lack of academic endorsements. He identified with them, or they with him, which rapport could have generated enough political energy to legitimately catapult him to Malacañang. He did, then second-best been a tremendous risk to the nation, but he was after all the people's honest choice.

Subsequent events, however, have proved that my vote, like those of other PPI supporters, would have been wasted because of the widespread reports of election irregularities that made President Arroyo win by more than a million votes. PPI rushed to Malacañang as was when had happened to his formidable leadership last year, shows the magnanimity election everyone that must have reimbursed his disappointment and hastened his demise.

GMA's supposed victory became even more suspicious with the disclosure of the Garci tapes and the massive cheating committed in Mindanao under the direction allegedly of Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of the Comelec. He conservatively disappeared while the anomaly was being investigated by Congress and later, after having absconded to parts unknown, suddenly surfaced to thereby elude all testimonies against him with the help of the tarpaulin surrender.

The abrupt termination of the legislative inquiry absolved President Arroyo of any involvement in the anomalies uncovered by the Garcia tapes. Last Thursday her cohorts in the lower House scandalously dismissed her connection with the scandal as an already dead issue that could no longer be considered a ground for her impeachment.

President Arroyo's elaborate opposition to the exhumation and autopsy of the Ilocos tapes that the opposition claims were buried alive is an irrefutable indication of her guilty conscience. The popular consensus is that, as old, gated by the Constitution to act to it that "the laws are faithfully executed," she should instead for obedient subordinates to cooperate in the full investigation of the report for the ascertainment of the guilty parties who manipulated the 2004 elections.

Her refusal to perform her constitutional duty is, of course, understandable albeit definitely not justifiable. An impartial and fearless inquiry into the memories of the Garci tapes may reveal the principal culprit as no less than President herself. She is supposed to this revelation because it is crucially dangerous to her political survival and her already-tarnished name in history.

Even if such investigations were monitored and eventually to conclude that there were indeed irregularities committed in the last presidential election, it is doubtful if such anomalies can be rectified at this late hour. The logical person to pursue would be Senate Noriega, PPI's widow, but she will never be nominated by the Supreme Court as not a proper party.

Given this legal obstacle, I would suggest a practical alternative. My suggestion—and hope—is that she run for Congress in the 2007 elections and bring her legitimate protest to the people in the ultimate judge on the conduct of the 2004 elections. She would incontestably be a proper party, and entitled to the right to be heard on her long-awaited complaints, before the sovereign Filipino people as the Court of Last Resort.

The attractive Senate would make an effective leader, and a beautiful symbol as well, of the new opposition to Mrs. Arroyo's disputable and questionable reign. It is a role role fit that she should dutifully perform in remembrance and vindication of her beloved husband.

All in his non-answer to me last Monday, Mr. Quezon concluded that: "Further effort against tonight." Bibitor says "tonight" means "nothing." Letty J.

To whom shall we go?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IN TITLE ABOUT A BEER WHO gave a free haircut to a German. The next day he received a basket of handkerchiefs outside his door. After giving a Japanese also a free haircut, the barber found a bottle of "sake" outside his door. He gave a Filipino a free haircut and, the next day, the barber found roasted pigs outside his door. If more Filipinos with new messages about a free haircut.

* * *

Most days get around last. In today's Gospel (Mt. 16, 13-20), word spread around that Jesus, the wonder worker and miracle worker, was talking about His flesh as food and His blood as drink. Hardly (hereafter He started losing followers. Even disciples—many of them—started to say that His pronouncements were hard to follow and accept. In fact, a number of them were shocked. And they stopped accompanying Him. How sad that people who have principles and hold on to the truth are often abandoned and set aside in this world of shallow commitments and fragile relationships. How sad that we abandon, reject and even persecute prophets to our midst because they make us "uncomfortable," and instead we follow the clowns who entertain us and make us forget.

* * *

"Follow the leader." All right. But what kind of a leader? Some stand what kind of a leader, as long as he or she can promise the moon and the stars? As long as the leader can provide for my personal needs, and one who does not disturb my comfort zone? The Lord reminds us today that the true leader is one who speaks the truth, in season and out of season, without thought of popularity or rejection. If false leaders thrive and abound, it is because there are followers who are not other principles, but only look for what is convenient, easy and lucrative.

* * *

Leadership, like respect, is earned. Lions tell us that. Elephants tell us that. Zebras tell us that. In the world of nature, there is no way a false leader can rise. But not so in the world of man, where leadership can be bought, manipulated, forced and even imposed. Surely we have more and more of these false animals, but we often end up more stupid and more timid than them. "In whom shall we go?" Let us go to him/her whom we really believe in, and of whose leadership we are really convinced.

* * *

There are leaders and there are leaders. We have leaders who look good and talk good. But in the end, we look for leaders who are really sincere and have the public good in their minds, hearts at last, we inevitably find out their true colors. "To whom shall we go?" Let us go to leaders who truly lead us, not bleed us; leaders who guide us, not us those who lie to us; leaders who empower us, not weaken us; leaders who challenge us, and not just please or entertain us.

* * *

Take a good look at the word "God." Reverse the letters and you have the word "dog." In life, we all have a choice—whether to go to God or to the dogs. It would be good for all of us to ask ourselves today: Where am I going?

* * *

Aug. 28 is the feast of St. Augustine. He took the long, circuitous way to go back to God. In the end, he found himself embraced by the Tenderness and Mercy he once spurned. He finally ended when he found his God. More rightly, when God found him.

* * *

Jesus is still for September, and Christmas will not be far behind. Where is our country going? Here's praying that Christmas will find us in a better situation than the one we are in now. Yes, we must continue to hope and work for a fresh start and a new beginning, we are very hard to God as a people and as a nation.

* * *

All roads lead to the grave. There is no escaping death, and yet some people live as if their lives would never end. As it is, some people hold on to worldly power, and somehow forget that no power on earth can prevent them from facing death and—here, time—corruption leads to decay. In fact, some people are already decaying even now because of their involvement in corruption.

* * *

It is not easy to follow Christ. In fact, one must be some kind of a fool to follow Him. Why be good in a world that rewards the bad? Why sacrifice? Why forgo money, riches, pleasures and power? Why? Because He offers something meaningful and substantial to us. He offers to us a meaningful earthly life and a joyful eternal life.

* * *

Inviting men and women with generous hearts to respond to God's call as a priest, or a brother or a sister. There is a big lack of priests and religious these days. If you feel you have a calling, please talk to your parish priest or call us at Christ the King Seminary (726-5002). It is a rewarding and meaningful life. God is calling. Are you listening?

* * *

God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. Be inspired by daily Bible verses, type **INQ** <space> **<BIBLE** and send to **2940**. For Globe! Sun or 3040 for Smart. God bless you. Manu-Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord.
Lord remind me that from You I come, to You I am going. Amen.

Mission impossible

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, THE INQUIRER HEADLINE read: "$5M bags 20 rifles in Bandasan raid." The raid by communist insurgents on a military outpost outside Valencia City in Bukidnon was described as "one of the most successful attacks on a military outpost this year." The Army spokesman, Maj. Ernesto Torres, added it "a big debacle" for the NPA. Brig. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, the 4th Infantry Division commander, Lieut. Horacio, described the encounter as "not complicated" then nonetheless as being saluted by "complete surprise."

The report said 20 firearms—11 M-16s, 30 Garands and four M-14 rifles—were taken. Hog the point through the whole story, the raid fixed for the week for the NPA—including those taken from other locations—comes up to 60 assorted firearms, a sizable equipment among them.

The raid by NPA spokesperson Lt. Col. Bernabe Buscayno said that two junior officers had been released from their posts as company commanders. Yesterday, Lt. Col. Francisco Rimbajon, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division based in Camp Evangelista City reported that no official had been relieved. Nothing in the Geneva Conventions' fine print, he said.

Last June, in her State of the Nation Address, the President ordered the armed forces to put an end to the insurgency, giving the military a two-year deadline to finish the job.

Some months ago, there was a deadline to stop the nation of having with the appointment of an anti-jueteng czar, Fortis Primerus Chrysler, of Edward Hagedorn. Well, Fortis has go by now [illegible], and it back to full swing in many parts of the country.

There was also a deadline of 15 weeks imposed on the Philippine National Police to usher at least 1 of the high-profile killings of activists and journalists. Task Force Usig chief Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. recently reported substantial compliance with the filing of charges against some suspects. But he himself admitted that there is still a lot of hard work ahead.

Obviously, in the Bukidnon fiasco, there was no near failure of intelligence. How could 50 armed men roam a camp undetected and take away 20 firearms, enough to equip another group of 50 or even a hundred new recruits? We need to know immediate name of our officers in the field be positive the situation is of close—and I don't mean just the junior officers—for command responsibility goes much higher than company level.

* * *

AFP last year. Although I mentioned him in one of my columns some months ago, I want to point out that the new AFP public information officer, Lt. Col. Buscayno, "Barsy" to friends, is only 11 holders of the MGB-PC rank; the AFP's highest award for guidance and bravery shown and beyond the called duty. As a young second lieutenant commanding a Cafgu detachment company attached to the 21st Infantry Battalion of the Infantry Division in Isabela, Barsy engaged a heavily armed group of communist insurgents in a two-day battle (Dec. 26-27, 1991). Without air or artillery fire support, and despite being wounded, he organized a spirited counter-attack on enemy forces, preventing their from overrunning the town of Maconacon. His leadership and courage provided the inspiration for his soldiers to fight and turn back a superior force of insurgents.

If someone in the midst of Lieutenant Barsy's wake in Camp Aguinaldo last week, those favorite would not have been taken and the enemy would have paid a high price for their efforts.

Although he is not a model for valor anymore, I would like to mention Col. Eduardo S. Andres, now the Republican Guard commander, AFP Medicine of Magallanes, Sorsogon, was serving as commander of the 27th Infantry Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, when he was ambushed by NPA elements in Tiris, South Cotabato. Before this, he served with the 57th Engineering Force in Tipo Tipo as CO, Base Service Unit for which he was awarded a commendation for outstanding performance as a professional Army officer by the Task Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Rosmundo Mempuntil.

A season of storms

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EDDIE AS HE MORE KEEPING VIGIL OVER MY brother Nene at the hospital and later, at his home, my husband Pie and his younger sister Belle were trying desperately to get in touch with their siblings in the United States. Their sister Rosario, their youngest sibling, had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer almost two years ago and the news to date one is doing poorly. But every time they called, they would either fail to get connected or if they did succeeding hardest.

Finally, on the night of Tuesday, August 15, Pie's grand set to leave the chapel early so we could meet with Belle at home and join what to do. On the drive home, my husband decided to take another chance and call Rosie's cell phone. To his surprise, he was connected with his brother Manny who had been in the room with Rosie when her cell phone was still alive! He told Manny to call us at home in 30 minutes as we were on our way there.

Once we reached home, Belle and her daughter Heather joined us and when Manny called, they put on the speaker phone so that we could hear him as that the second time heard Pie's voice, the operator for two and ended, and connected me to us, one by one, we talked with him, telling her we loved her, not to worry about us here as we were all doing fine, to be at peace, and to keep praying. In reply, she would mumble a soft "sorry," or "thank you."

Nenen and his wife Joy told us that they were in a hospice in North Carolina, where Nene had been brought after his last stay in the hospital. Rosario's husband Ben and their children were at the airport, hitching their oldest sister Belle and her husband Hilmer who were flying in to be with Rosie.

* * *

BELLE was uneasy about the situation. "We're talked to her and Ate Daily is coming. It's like she's just waiting to hear from everyone," she said, voice breaking.

"Belle, let's look upon this as a blessing," I argued. "What a blessing it was to be able to talk to Rosie and tell her that we loved her!"

But Belle's feelings proved prophetic. Early the next morning, Daily told us that Nene had succumbed shortly after 4 a.m. (either Detroit Texas, was dead at age 66).

When Pie and I went for a visit in March of last year, Nene was still on her feet, the same energetic and self-confident woman we knew, though she aired family accomplishments with a more humble air. She planned a grand reunion in the Philippines, with Nene and Ben crossing the entire family on a week-long stay in Boracay where they had time-share accommodations. With much optimism, we planned our visit at the Old Pastel Hotel for February this year, in time for Belle's birthday.

But some months later, Nene herself called to say that the trip home would probably not materialize. "I've gotten worse," she said. "I don't think I can travel such a long plane ride and I need constant care already." So urged her to take a positive view, to believe that she would get well enough to visit the country if not in February then at some later date. Or, to hold on and wish for us because Pie and I were planning and saving up for a visit by February.

* * *

SOMEBODY wants would prove that not all the planning and hoping of poor humans could stop the hand of him into the will of God.

In a way, we are happy for Nene. A woman who was the product of her independence and her self-sufficient ways, she bulldozed her way to the conviction that her illness had imposed. She had run her household and her doctor husband's practice with confidence and efficiency and she excelled in the role of mother and grandmother. She drew to other people, even if they were her relatives.

* * *

FROM THIS FROM TEST CLASS IS PROBABLY the oldest saying itself. Advances in the technology of retrieval and duplication of information, coupled with the heightened competitiveness in almost all professions, have made recall to it easier and more tempting. However, we may assume that the methods and principles for preventing it and managing its effects have also been refined over time. What it most amazing about the curious morning-based exam fiasco is the thoughtless response of the students and their parents.

On July 27, the Professional Regulation Commission Board of Nursing (PRC-BON) issued a results that nullified the scores in 7/8 of the 500 test questions in the 2006 nursing board exams. This was after it was found out that the test questions had been a leak in those same covered by those questions. Since most of the nullified items pertained to heart-problem's nursing, the institution assumed either that the scores were not that crucial, or that the level of competence of those items may be reduced from an expected proficiency rate to the other mean. It was the easy way out because it did not distinguish between those who pushed from the task and those who did not. It did not lift the regular from the 2006 takers.

We have no problem with the recommendation of the recently formed Presidential Task Force which made the invalidation of the results in the two disputed subjects of the 2006 nursing licensure examinations, and the transfer of the test to the one or two months in March 2007. The government will face the hell for the new examinees who can distinguish the majority of those who took and passed the examination by honest means. Many nonregulation shape marks performances in previous exams who have not taken a difficult test knows this personal experience of the agony of the day that took can spell the difference between passing and failing. This is why I hate compulsive who those who are aggrieved by the blanket nullification of mark results to be some sinister conspiracy.

Testing culture

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

Some time ago, who heads the Malacañang rank have as well as the Commission on Filipino Overseas, rightly went on that she avoided stay of her the availability of Philippine nurses and, perhaps, their marketability abroad. But the solution to this problem cannot pay possibly be in the institution of the legislature powers which preserving the overall integrity of the exams. What might these be?

First, we can be assured those examinees who now likely made a mistake on their exam from those who never probably passed because they were called to the task. We may reasonably assume that those whose grades in the natural subjects do not greatly deviate from their scores in the other subjects in many likely passed on their own; I am not an expert, but I am aware that there are simple statistical methods for determining this. A competent program can go through the scores of all the examinees and quickly identify those who register suspicious gains in their scores relative to their consistent subjects. The names of those examinees can then be compared with the names of those in the list of the revised courses given the tested questions were supposed to have been disseminated. When there is a match, a reasonable inference can be made that the person should be one who cheated and obtained them by dishonesty, who among the examinees in this list registered the greatest similarity of right and wrong answers in the two disputed subjects. It is they who must be required to retake the whole examination. In this manner, we do not stigmatize and penalize everybody for the sins of a few.

Second, get to the bottom of this leak. A couple of hours examinees have already come forward to volunteer what they know. Investigators must pick up the trail from there and follow it to where it leads. Let us not forget that a terrible crime has been committed here, and much of which a great injustice hangs over the head of those who legitimately passed the exam. Only the truth will help restore it and the PRC will truly regain some of the trust and confidence it has already all but lost entirely.

Third, and finally, review the whole system of professional eligibility examinations, with particular attention to the role of review schools. Perhaps a study could take a look into the following: (1) the wisdom of appointing examinees who are also lecturers in review centers; (2) the proliferation of independent review centers that are not subject to any form of regulation by relevant authorities in the whole science of preparing test questions; (3) the adequacy of existing test banks—in particular, the extent to which those are regularly updated; and (4) the security of exams.

In pursuing the needed reforms, we should not be misled to the subtle dangers posed by excessive haste on turn. What the knowledge that schools impose on their students becomes a powerful appeal to passing licensure exams, they will begin to teach to the test, thereby undermining the principles of a profession. But, perhaps, there is an even more basic reason. When examinees (and a whole profitable industry around the profession, like nursing, the driving force is simply to pass exams and not the issue of our educational system, it was the integrity of our whole culture.

* * *

Comments to public.free@gmail.com

The waiting dark

IN BARANGAY SIN, CLARA, CUNAPI, MARIA ECLA, JOSEE Antipo sat in front of her television at half past eight on a Saturday night. Her husband Antonio lay asleep on a futon by the windows. That night, the comfortable quiet registered with the relentless drone of an M-16 fired by a gunman a floor away from the window, made occupied with a gash on her arm. Antonio, a peasant leader of Aluat Nueva, still slept on his breath in spite of

Rebel Without A Clue

Patricio Evangelista

Dr. Barangay Lenore, Dolores, Nueva Ecija, the bloodsoaked body of Pedro Bautista was found under a bridge, shot, badly bruised. Bound at wrist and ankle and left with a crushed skull. The 55-year-old woman was the outspoken chairperson of Anakpawis. She was an active leader of the local Bayan Muna chapter.

In Barangay Bariles, a dirt village in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, midwife Dolores Abolleza was washing dishes when three armed men entered her house and fired at least twice and escaped her of being an NPA member. She was found there behind, with a bullet wound in the head. Two days later, in Barangay Sapang, 80-year-old grandmother, beat up her husband and murdered her 23-year-old son Rebel, who the armed men claimed was also NPA. They thrashed him until he begged, and shot then thrashed him until he was unconscious. Months and months have passed since the murders.

Like me many any of this when I woke up in the dark to the back seat of an Isuzuna pickup, my cramping bone being rattled up the hours. My photographer Jilo the shotgun, and Al, the driver, is hunched against the wheel. All I knew is that we were told to go after a story in Llanos Ecija, where a military leader had been gunned down. My contact confirms it: Jody Vasquez, KMP member, killed the night before in Licong, Cuidalia.

Cuidalia is beyond the border of Tarlac, right inside Nueva Ecija, the province the military calls 008 country. It is the place where the New People's Army is strongest, the place Jody's cuidala. According to the 2000 census, Cuidalia has a population of 61,205 people in 10,007 households. At 7:50 on a Thursday night, no houses are deserted.

Every few minutes, Jilo gets down from the pickup to knock on doors and ask for directions. On calls one from from strangers, on the other from Jody's comrades in Licong. We see the blue glow of television screens and hear barking around canvas, but doors remain shut. Jilo manages to collect sketchier directions from the few people he catches on the street. At 10 to 10, a set of headlights pushes through the blackness ahead—a jeepney that slowly moved us, packed some soldiers carrying Armalite rifles.

We are quiet inside the pickup.

Jilo just a sure-shot movie, a man walks out of a gate. Its caught...he rolls us. Then right after the waving silent. He doesn't stop. He keeps walking right past us

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [illegible]

Edna Juan N. Sarmiento Jr.

We are not entertaining as yet anyone from 2006 because of the legalities and because we do not condone what happened. We want the truth to come out

Job prospects of nursing board 'passers'

HOSPITALS HERE AND ABROAD ARE RELUCTANT TO HIRE nursing graduates who passed the nursing board examinations that were administered on June 11-12. The reluctance is understandable because—bearing majored the exams.

Who would want to receive nursing care from somebody belonging to the group that took the exams?

Already, some hospitals in the United States said they would not hire Filipino nurses who graduated this year because of the cheating.

What's the use of earning a degree in nursing if hospitals won't hire those who "passed" the tainted exams?

Filipinos are taking up nursing in droves in the hope of finding work abroad. A registered nurse in the United States can expect to earn some $36,000 a year (P1.8 million or P153,900 a month), while his or her counterpart in the Philippines can expect to earn only $5,000 (P102,600 or P8,550 a month).

The best way to remove the stigma of being a June "passer" is to take the board exams scheduled for December and pass them.

PILIPINOS in New York City are practically defined by the single occupation of nursing. They are the largest ethnic group among nurses as many hospitals in the region.

'We're not hiring anyone from 2006'

Rita Villanueva-Reinoso
Deputy Director for Nursing Services
Philippine General Hospital

WE ARE NOT HIRING ANYONE from 2006. But most the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) makes a decision and after they have passed all the requirements members are later implemented, not not willing to consider hiring them.

They have to present to us the certificate from PRC that they passed the nursing board exams. This will come after the decision of whether to validate the exam or not. They still have to decide on that.

We have a similar screening process. It may not be as stringent as others, but print the chances that is the best that we can do. In fact, we have advanced 30 percent of the 1000 points of recognition for the nursing profession's exam. The applicant has to get at least percentage of that 30 percent, and he or she should come from schools with outstanding performances—the top 12, as required by the Commission on Higher Education or school graduates with outstanding education for 2006 and 2005.

Before, our recommended graduates of high performing schools, but this time we are not only willing to take those from the Top 12 because they have good exposure, they have good related learning experiences, they have done well in the [illegible] but we are basically not graduates, because they were from our recommended they have been recommended to Philippine General Hospital.

Purge

PG has one very and about what is happening. This is a controversy that nursing there are some in this time. But again, this is an opportunity to purge the nursing profession. This is not a validation of the fact that schools will do everything in order to show they are producing good nurses.

In a hospital, we can't say that that a student, a graduate of June 2006, we're not supposed to do the same thing because we're not in the same school but we do have those factors that we're able to do, for us the licensure exam is the minimum of the proper taking care of those does not become a burden for patients.

The issue has become a national controversy and has been pulled up by international media organizations. We can't say that because it [illegible] of test questions and answers in the board exams). In fact, we are talking [illegible] to remedy the situation, and we want our nurses to retake the exams and prove to others that have the integrity and the competency to pass. They [illegible disappear] will pick it up as something we don't tolerate, something we don't encourage and we don't condone. But we are there to protect the integrity of nursing. After several months, the controversy will die down especially if we are able to treat it well and resolve it in the best possible terms.

Structural changes

There are a lot of policy and structural changes that should be done. First, we have to look into the profile of our nursing administration recommending members of the Board of Nursing. The PRC has given the task [of nominating members of the BON] to the professional organization [Philippine Nurses Association]. We have to review the process, with our people who have integrity.

Second is how the organizations schedule conventions like this. People watch a time like of interest should think hard about their priority NEU in the school, the hospital or the nursing profession?

Third, we should look into our own selves. As nurses, what are the values we need to consider? There are core values in nursing that we have as priority, love and humility. We have to get back to the values of caring, commitment, integrity. It's time we think of our own intrinsic ability to interact and place role in the health care system to encourage the quality of nursing.

Retake exams

Personally, I am in favor of a retake, at the very least of "Pass 10 and 5."

But the issue of the PGH is that we can take them in as long as they provide the PRC certificate. We are not contributing to government fees [and because of the legalities and because we do not condone what happened. We want the truth to come out. We will not make this a mere ending situation. If we finally take them in, we will assist them in retaking test.

In the end it will be the characterization of the profession and making it the best. We're not saying that an class we could expect our nurses, but the vast majority people PGH is industrious, zealous. We want to give the people the best service. Interview by Lolit Sadcaoreina

'Give them a chance'

Dr Humberto Villareal
Hospital director
Medical Center Muntinlupa

THE HOSPITAL IS NOT TOTALLY closing its doors to the nurses who passed the recent licensure examinations. But there is a regular refurbished test screening, if you think of the implications that it may have on all the successful passers.

It would be a pity to those who passed the board exams [illegible] to cheat. If they would not be given the chance to prove their worth. They deserve to have a chance. However, there are so many things to consider.

In our hospital, all applicants go through a set of rigid examinations, just like taking the board. There are fill in the blanks and oral tests. Due to the applicants who passed the board in June, it will also have to hold [illegible] the screening. Interview by Jocelyn R. Ey

'Scandal must be resolved soon'

Lourdes Jasinto,
Administrator
Saint Louis University Hospital
ofthe Sacred Heart, Baguio City

HOSPITAL OFFICIALS HAVE NOT DECIDED the "wisest position" of discriminating against the board passers of the June exams, despite SLU's involvement in exposing the cheating in Baguio City.

Sidney Icban Lacsamana, SLU nursing school dean, had been one of the five people who exposed cheating during the June 11 and 12 licensure exams for nurses.)

The SLU hospital relies on graduates of the SLU School of Nursing for its staff requirements. SLU has been consistently among the top nursing schools in the country because almost all of its graduates pass the annual board exam[illegible] tests.

The scandal should not affect SLU's passers of flying new nurses because applicants are still required to undergo a battery of tests before they are admitted into the hospital.

But the scandal must be resolved soon. Although SLU does not see any long-term damage to the nursing profession, it might affect the operations of other nursing schools.

There are too many nursing schools and our exam help but worry what many irregular schools nowadays offer nursing courses.

Interview by Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Students not to blame'

Dr. Reruela Bonongo
Chief of Hospital
Dumo Regional Hospital, Baguio City

YES, I'M WILLING TO HIRE NURSES who passed the recent board exams.) The examinees are not the ones to blame for the Professional Regulation Commission, review center owners and some dozen of nursing schools who are responsible for the scandal.

It depends [whether patients will feel comfortable or confident about the skills of these nurses.] Confidence depends on the institution the students are connected with.

Screening, [experts and Conference] of a practicing nurse are developed in the institution where he or she is working. The guidance of a master depends on the overall standards of the hospital.

Even if test is a board passer, it doesn't mean that he or she is already worthwhile of hire or hirable. It requires hard hire exposure to clinical work.

If the institution does not have a structured training program, patients will not be confident of the skills of the nurse.

What regulatory measures should be adopted? The graduates of nursing schools must be regulated to ensure quality education.

The upside of this is that Filipinos are kind of resilient. Given the chance, we move forward.

What should be done to restore the image? Better regulations and quality education are steps to continue to the utmost. Interview by Noelle Rodillo, Inquirer Mindanao

We continue to hear success tales post-[illegible] board examinees. —*Dr. Jude's Medical Center*

Top performing schools in the June 2006 nursing licensure examination

A. With 100 and more examinees

Rank	School	Examinees	Passers	Percent
1	Saint Louis University	348	337	96%
	West Visayas State University	139	122	90%
2	Cebu Doctors' University	145	133	92%
3	University of Northeastern Philippines	114	101	89%
	Bicol Medical Center			
4	Cebu Normal University	195	157	80%
	Saint Paul University - Iloilo	281	177	88%

B. With 30 to 99 examinees

Rank	School	Examinees	Passers	Percent
1	University of the Philippines - Manila	46	46	100%
2	Philippine Christian University - Manila	71	70	97%

Across the NATION

Execs watch for fish kill from Olongapo oil slick

WORKERS try to remove by hand thick oil sludge dumped into a village in Valenzuela, Bulacan, by a Petron tanker that spilled bunker fuel into the province's private waters. A similar effort is ongoing, although on a smaller scale, in Olongapo City.

By Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—WHILE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED to clear the oil slick that has spread into the coastline of this city, local officials have warned of a possible fish kill in the affected areas in Subic Bay.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator Armand Arreza said even if they have contained the oil slick, its residues remain hazardous and could pose risks to public health and the bay's marine life.

"Although we cannot quantify the environmental damage of the oil slick in the waters of Subic, we are still closely monitoring a possible fish kill," Arreza said.

He said the SBMA has also provided containing measures to protect the Ocean Adventure Theme Park at the Subic Bay to report to zero reported whales and dolphins from possible poisoning due to the spill.

"We have bought some dispersant agents, such as oil skimmers, as part of the clean-up efforts," Arreza said.

Mayor Jamie Gordon Jr. said the vessel that was believed to have damaged a coal bunker oil off the waters of Subic Bay on Thursday night have come from Mariveles, Bataan.

He said a barges vessel could have dislodged the vessel oil since no ship was anchored within Subic Bay.

Arreza has advised residents and visitors to avoid water activities, such as jet skiing, in Subic Bay "since the oil slick is hazardous to health."

The sludge has reached the beach fronts of at least 26 resorts in a 7-km stretch of shoreline in Barangay Sta. Rita here, prompting village chief Carlito Tiday to order the temporary closure of beaches and resorts.

"Most of the beaches are not suited for swimming and water sports activities," Tiday said.

"This is actually the first time we experienced this and so we are trying to gather all beach resort owners and other stakeholders to form composite teams to fast-track the clean-up operations," Catalan said.

SBMA officials were still trying to trace the source of the bunker oil that was placed in plastic bags found floating on the bay on Thursday.

"We are checking all vessels that came here [on] final out if they have the same kind of plastic bags that were dumped off Subic's waters," Arreza said.

Greenpeace told to submit report on contamination

SUBIC BAY CITY—THE MINES AND GEOsciences Bureau urged Greenpeace International to furnish the agency a copy of its report alleging contamination at a creek near the mining area in Rapu-Rapu Island being operated by Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI).

On Thursday, Greenpeace released a statement claiming that tests conducted by its scientists confirmed "very high levels of toxic metals" in water samples collected from a creek allegedly contaminated by the Rapu-Rapu mining activity.

MGB Regional director Reynaldo Juan said such report by the antimining group would remain a hearsay unless it could be verified and confirmed, saying it was not coordinated with the proper government agency.

Greenpeace earlier reported that the Mirapinit creek near the mining area was found to be positive for cadmium, copper and zinc and blamed the mining operation for it.

"A few weeks ago, unidentified people poured a huge amount of pesticide into a creek that is the source of clean water for the residents, and wanted sending our test samples that Lafayette was to blame," LPI consultant Jose Antonio Ingles said.

Juan said it could be easily verified whether the Greenpeace report was true or not since they have baseline data of all metals found in the area.

The Greenpeace launched a florid protest against Lafayette just as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources gave its go-signal for Stage 3 of the test run.

Juan said the MGB was now just awaiting word from the Pollution Adjudication Board on the last stage of the test run could be conducted.

Lafayette lawyer Siegun Aquitin said they were preparing legal action against Greenpeace, pinoy-ngo that unfortunately some media outlets fall for."

Recently, they misrepresented themselves at the BSMC head office so they could go up the coal dock to photographers they had to toss could take pictures, he added.

Siegun said they had commissioned the DENR ecotown, saying the antimining militants had become destructive and must be dealt with accordingly by authorities. Bobby Q. Labadan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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I take pleasure to convey my personal greetings and best wishes to the *Glad Tidings Publishing Inc. (GTPI)* on the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebration.

The commitment of *GTPI* in the promotion of academic excellence and solid Christian values are well appreciated. It has published numerous textbooks and magazines which dwell on issues that are of interest to young people, parents and guardians. Hitherto, it has done its share in the efforts of ensuring that they are a city of disciplined and responsible citizens.

I am confident it will in the coming business to make a reality for collaboration for it is more than just printing, it is about publishing *good tidings*.

May the favor of God be with you always in the years ahead. Mabuhay po kayo!

HON. EDUARDO C. FERNANDO
City Mayor

A Word from the Publisher

Glad Tidings Publishing, Inc. (GTPI) is a company fully dedicated to the shaping of young minds towards academic excellence and solid Christian values and ethics.

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CHR says Army blocking probe of Left killings

MAGELES CITY—THE Commission on Human Rights has ordered six military commanders in Central Luzon to explain why they should not be cited in contempt summons for their failure to cooperate and give information of summary executions and pressing human rights issues in a public inquiry here.

The CHR order, signed by Commissioner Elgin Mallari, will be served on Monday to Lt. Col. Jonnifer Kakilala of the 48th Infantry Battalion; Col. Eduardo Ofianza, OMS (R) Lt. Col. Felipe Anonuevo and 2Lt. Romeo Pulmano, 24th IB; 1st. Sgt. Clement Sotto IV; and Sr. Col. Gregorio Capinpin, 7 ID/ SOUTHCOM.

Under the rules of the commission, indirect contempt for violation of procedures and processes carries a penalty of P1,000 for every offender.

A copy of the order was obtained by the Inquirer after Mallari signed this on Friday night or before the CHR panel proceeded to Tuguegarao City for the Bantillo Lecture by of the Commission of killings and other rights abuses in the Ilocos, Cordillera and Cagayan Valley.

The Central Luzon leg of the inquiry was held in this city on Friday.

In open session, Mallari invoked Lt. Col. Hermilo Barrera, of the Army's Judge Advocate General Office, for questioning the authority of the CHR to conduct an inquiry and for submitting documents of Bantay concerning "general denials" of the charges against the commanders and six other junior officers.

Mallari told the lawyers he was not satisfied with the results of the inquiry "because of the obstruction by the military through these lawyers that [were] there."

The inquiry, Mallari said, was supposed to draw out "specific replies" from the officers to letters to the nine complaints filed by the human rights watchdog Karapatan, Mothers and Relatives against Tyranny (Mate'y) and other people before the CHR.

He said the panel has not declared the Central Luzon inquiry over until the military commanders give adequate replies.

"Depending on their answers, there may possibly be a continuation of the inquiry," he said.

Barrios cited "lack of time" and having his hands full with "many charges" on why the respondents did not give details. He cited Barrera and the CHR inquiry as part of a "propaganda war."

"[Karapatan] got nothing from us," Barrios said in a phone interview.

Lawyer Flavio Nelson, CHR legal chief, said the investigation would have proceeded well had Barrios not taken an "adversarial" stance against the commission.

"This is essentially a fact-finding mission and we needed to get their side to help us determine if the complaints have bases to be filed before the courts or the Office of the Ombudsman," she said.

Barrios disproved a claim by Barrios that the CHR had allowed Karapatan to go forum-shopping, referring to the group's petition for habeas corpus before the courts for at least 10 missing political activists.

"Habeas corpus petitions ask the courts to compel the authorities to produce and present missing persons. What are here before us is the CHR are complaints against killings, disappearances, harassment, intimidations that we are allowed to investigate. The commission is independent, created by the [1987] Constitution to investigate human rights violations," Arellano said. —Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

VOLCANO ISLANDS
Pagan, in photo taken at about 7 p.m., continues to attract tourists and the attention of scientists worldwide. A predicted violent eruption didn't materialize, but Philippine volcanologists keep watch.

Rebs ambush soldiers guarding tree plantation

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR—Communist rebels ambushed a team of soldiers and security personnel of a tree plantation company in Talacogon town on Friday, government and rebel sources said yesterday.

But casualty figures differed from one source to another.

Capt. Raimund Tordan Aguson del Sur police chief, said based on reports reaching his office, a soldier and a security officer of the Provident Tree Farms Inc. (PTFI) were killed in the attack, while four others were wounded.

He said based on this report, those killed were a Cpl. Bailbud of the Army's 26th Infantry Battalion and Jerry Dayda, a PTFI security officer. Injured were Pfcs Avrilla, Cenimian and Villacin, and Job Mercolino, a militiaman assigned to the PTFI.

Tordan said rebs' report also claimed that an undetermined number of rebels had been killed or wounded.

The military's 4th Infantry Division, based in Cagayan de Oro City, said a soldier was killed in the ambush and five got hurt.

Capt. Rosario, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said a soldier was killed in the ambush and five got hurt.

Capt. Rosario, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said a soldier was killed in the ambush and five got hurt.

"Our aim was to seize firearms but the soldiers fought back and reinforcements arrived," Rosario said.

He denied any casualty on the NPA side, saying only one guerrilla was wounded.

Tordan said based on reports reaching his office, the truck carrying Army soldiers and PTFI security personnel were passing by Barangay Maddon past noon when their ambush occurred.

"They were on their way to retrieve illegally cut logs from a concession area in Bitaogan when a land mine exploded at the back portion of the truck," Tordan said.

He said the rebels immediately fired on the truck after the explosion, prompting the soldiers and the PTFI security personnel to fire back.

He said the gunfight lasted for about an hour.

Responding soldiers led by Lt. Col. Nicolas Tobaga, commanding officer of the 26th IB, were also engaged by a rebel blocking force but no casualty had been reported.

Tobaga later said they recovered three unexploded land mines, which the rebels planted under a bridge.

"The land mines apparently failed to detonate," he said.

Friday's ambush was the second attack staged by the rebels in the province since July.

A PTFI security guard was killed during the July ambush.

Barrios said more attacks were to be expected as the NPA stepped up its offensive on government targets.

On Tuesday, NPA rebels also killed a soldier and a militiaman during a raid on a military detachment in Valencia City in Bukidnon.

The rebels took 29 high-powered firearms during the raid.

The NPA has carried out similar raids on police and military detachments in Mindanao, including last year's attack on the police station of Quezon, Bukidnon. —Chris V. Panganiban and Grace C. Allasan, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Schools in upland Cebu barangays get outside world link via Net

FOR THE HUNDREDS of students of Pardo National High School and Lusaran National High School, going to and from school means either walking or riding the dusty, bumpy, and motorcycle-fast cars and vans to the people get trip.

Despite the barangays' location within Cebu City public consciousness, like buses or jeeps are hard to come by. The roads leading to the mountain barangays are rugged. Tele phone lines are lacking. Until recently, these schools also did not have Internet connection.

Pardo NHS and Lusaran NHS are two of Cebu City's upland schools, located in the mountainous northwestern part of the city. But for the teachers, parents, local governments and hopeful officials in this city, there "isn't so mountain high enough"—even for public schools in need of wireless broadband Internet connectivity.

In response to the challenge of the Cebu City local government and the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division, Smart Communications Inc. (Smart), recently succeeded in connecting the mountain-based Pardo National High School and Lusaran National High School to the Internet via Smart Bro, Smart's BayáWireless broadband solution.

Their existing computer laboratories, upgraded with several networked computers and peripherals and Internet connection, now double as Smart Bro-based learning resource centers.

The schools are the latest partners of the Smart Schools Program, Smart's flagship community service initiative that provides Internet connectivity and ICT training to public high schools nationwide.

Through the program, teachers and students in Pardo and Lusaran are now becoming Internet savvy as their counterparts in the landmass of Cebu City and neighboring island barangays with regard to timely access to information, content and collaboration resources on the World Wide Web, among them via the Smart Schools website (www.smartschools.ph).

STUDENTS of the Pardo National High School start enjoying the Internet through a program launched by Smart Communications Inc.

"Our school did not only receive computers, Internet access and connectivity. It's more than those things. Our participation in the Smart Schools Program enables us to belong, to be counted, and to compete academically, to take a peek at the world and broaden our horizons, and importantly, to connect to our dreams and aspirations and make them a reality," says Rosario Escobon, head teacher in charge of Pardo NHS.

On the other hand, Emily Obsioma, Lusaran National HS head teacher in charge acknowledges, "Our teachers and students are discovering the wonders of the World Wide Web like Yahoo! and Google to enhance their knowledge and learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. The shoulders of mountaineers are, as you say, rough ready and new telephone lines have been installed through the installation of wireless broadband connection."

Teachers from the two schools will also be the recipients of various ICT training programs ranging from Microsoft Office use, computer laboratory maintenance, and ICT integration in the curriculum.

"Having Internet access in mountain areas like ours is a dream come true," Obsioma adds.

This milestone is particularly remarkable for the barangays of Pardo and Lusaran, which, way back in the late 1980s, did not have access to secondary education in the uplands. According to Elmer Jopia, Pardo's barangay captain since 1980, high school students living in Pardo and neighboring sitios then had to walk 1 km to reach the nearest high school.

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jon Bandayrel
Xavier Cruz/Nico A. Alvarado

1976 KILLER TSUNAMI

The sea emptied itself in Pagadian

By Michael E Saravaga
Pagadian City

SUDDENLY, THE earth shook, swaying houses for 50 seconds and waking up people in the coastal villages into a frenzied search for safety. Then, there was eerie silence that lasted for several minutes. The sea retreated, and 20 minutes later came the roar.

"It seemed like all the vehicles in the city had gone out of control and then followed cries of 'Water! Water! Water!'" teacher Florita de Lara, 41, recalled the night when her village, Santa Lucia, in Pagadian City turned upside down.

De Lara was lucky. Her house was strong enough to withstand the big waves. But her brother, Leo Tolentin, was swept away by the first rush.

Tolentin swam in the troubled water, and if not for a coconut tree where he clung to for dear life as waves receded for another sweep, he would have been swallowed by the sea.

"The dream I clayed in was swept away and I went out and realized because it looked like it might collapse. There was mud all over and it was difficult to swim as it was very dark. I saw a coconut tree and I held tight to it as water retreated into the sea," Tolentin said.

Midnight tragedy

It was 12:11 midnight of Aug. 17, 1976 when a magnitude-7.9 earthquake of tectonic origin in the Celebes trench off the Moro Gulf shook western and central Mindanao.

SOME of the houses that were destroyed by huge waves in the village of White Beach in Pagadian City. At least 23 houses were destroyed while 58 suffered damages when the waves struck, reminding villagers of the 1976 tsunami that destroyed most of Pagadian. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SARAVAGA

Around 20 minutes after the tremor, five to seven meters high of waves swash the coastal towns of Cotabato, Zamboanga del Sur and parts of the Lanao provinces. Another hit was Pagadian.

Santa Lucia barangay chair Bernardino Mondarte was then an engineering graduate awaiting for the board examination. He recalled that water in the drainage system in front of his house suddenly disappeared.

"We were outside after the earthquake to avoid being hit by falling debris in the house and then I noticed that the water in the canal suddenly withdrew to the sea. It was then we heard grumbling and resounding sounds coming from the ocean," Mondarte recalled.

"I saw people panic, shouting about waves, big waves ... and then it happened...we were engulfed by a tidal wave," he said.

Village Councilor Samuel Dequain and his wife, who was pregnant at that time, were already floating when they saw another wave approaching.

"It was dark, but I saw the wave. It carried with it mud and debris, maybe from crushed shanties or boats. We were just lucky we were not hit by the debris or were scattered by mud," he said.

1,448 dead

The Office of Civil Defense recorded five tremors and a series of big waves triggered by the quake. A total of 1,448 people died in Zamboanga del Sur, 7,781 people were injured, and 360 were reported missing and believed to have drowned or was.

Most of the fatalities were residents of the coastal villages of Pagadian.

A total of 49,848 people lost their homes.

Of the 11 coastal villages in Pagadian, Santa Lucia was the hardest hit because it was more populated and several communities are situated in the mangrove area.

Mondarte remembered that when the waves subsided, hundreds of bodies littered the village. Houses were destroyed and uprooted, while mud was all over.

Disaster preparedness

The big loss of lives and properties brought Pagadian down on its knees. A small and unknown city then, the tragedy had marked it as one of the places worst hit by natural calamities.

On its 30th year, the city government and the Office of Civil Defense organized an elaborate month-long campaign of earthquake and tsunami preparedness drills.

"The preservation of lives is still paramount importance and the earthquake and tsunami drills are aimed at informing how we can avoid loss of lives when calamities like earthquake and tsunamis occur," said Mayor Samuel Co, who heads the campaign as barangay commander.

The exercise dubbed "Bidal" or water in Subanen is participated in by 11 coastal villages.

"The benefit of this drill is to familiarize the people on what to do, and we plan to hold this annually to raise their awareness," the mayor added.

60-second warning

On Aug. 17, at 3 p.m., bells rang simultaneously in the areas, while a siren sounded downtown to signal the start of the drill.

In the scenario and sequence of events prepared by organizers, the 60-second warning followed a magnitude-8.0 earthquake. Local officials went to every house to alert occupants about the impending danger.

The people slowly escaped to the city center where a marker was erected in memory of those killed during the 1976 tsunami.

"We chose the site as the area where evacuating people can reach safety because it was the farthest point that the waves reached during the calamity in 1976," Co said.

RESIDENTS of Pagadian City take part in an earthquake and tsunami drill in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the city's tsunami attack on the coastlines of Pagadian, killing 1,448 people.

"[It] seemed like all the vehicles in the city had gone out of control and then followed cries of 'Water! Water! Water!'

THESE houses stood no chance against huge waves that struck Aug. 17 on the village of White Beach in Pagadian City. Despite the memories of the 1976 tsunami remaining fresh, people insisted in building houses near the shore.

'I saw people panic, shouting about waves, big waves ... and then it happened —we were engulfed by a tidal wave'

A14
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NEWS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

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Nursing grads leave anyway to try luck abroad

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SOME GOVERNMENT employees who passed the June boards examinations for nurses have decided to try their luck abroad even without their licenses.

Jude Acoze, a government nurse who decided to shift to a nursing career, said many of his fellow government workers who did likewise were convinced that a Philippine nursing license was not necessary if they could pass the licensing exams given in other countries like the United States which condones the National Council Licensure Examinations for Practical Nurses (NCLEX).

Acoze said many of his fellow workers, including officials of regional agencies in Northern Luzon, had already filed for leaves of absence to explore job opportunities abroad or to take the NCLEX. He said he was only following their lead.

Officials of the Philippine Nurses Association said they anticipated an exodus of new nursing graduates despite the crisis created by allegations of cheating in the June 11 and 12 nursing board exams.

Ruth Thelma Tirgalo, a PNA governor, said nothing would prevent the 42,000 examinees who took the tainted exams from trying their luck in other countries.

Stigma of cheating

"Countries in the Mediterranean don't acquire Philippine licenses. Some states in America also do not make it their prerequisite [for hiring]," she said.

"But [the June examinees] still have to contend with the stigma of cheating. Overseas employers have already advised the [government] that they may not hire licensed nurses who took the June board exams," said Mary Grace Leonardo, chapter president of the Association of Deans of Philippine Nursing Schools.

Largest group

Tirgalo, Leonardo and 92 Baguio examinees were unable to June about leaked test questions that were allegedly distributed by certain review centers.

Leonardo, who is also the dean of the St. Louis University's school of nursing, said many nursing graduates this year took nursing as their second courses.

The Professional Regulation Commission described the June batch of examinees as the largest group of nursing licensure applicants in history although only more than 37,000 of the 42,000 examinees passed the tests.

Asean pact to benefit nurses—TUCP

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE Philippines yesterday said Filipino nurses could look forward to greater employment opportunities abroad in the coming months with the scheduled adoption of a new agreement liberalizing the trade in professional nursing services within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"Our nurses can count on easier access to the lucrative job markets of Asean members once the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Nursing Services comes into force," said Ernesto Herrera, TUCP secretary general.

Summit in Cebu

The agreement will definitely be signed during the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu in December, according to the former senator.

"The covenant essentially means that Philippine licensed nurses will be automatically recognized as nurse practitioners by other Asean members," Herrera said.

Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Expedite recognition

Herrera said the MRA would expedite the recognition of the qualifications of Filipino nurses and, thus, considerably ease their recruitment and deployment within Asean.

"This means our nurses do not have to take the national nurse licensure examinations of other Asean members to be able to practice in those countries," he said.

He said that right now, for example, Singapore recognizes nurses from Malaysia and Brunei, but the city-state does not recognize nurses from the Philippines.

Part of free trade agreement

For a Filipino nurse to practice in Singapore, he or she has to pass the city-state's own eligibility test, similar to the United States National Council Of State Boards of Nursing) Licensure Examinations for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

At present, most of the 4,000 foreign nurses working in Singapore are Filipinos. They all had to pass Singapore's nurse licensure test, he said.

"The Philippines will be the MRA's biggest beneficiary since we are now the world's biggest exporter of nurses," he said, adding that since the MRA is mutual, the country would also automatically recognize nurses from other Asean members.

He said the MRA is part of a free trade agreement initiative that had been in the works for years and was finalized only this month, ahead of the December summit.

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Life in the wild in the heart of the city

By Tina G. Santos

A FEW MINUTES FROM NOW the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion in Manila will no longer just be a simple garden serving as a repository for vanishing native plants and a venue where a panoramic view of mosque-dotted Intramuros is enjoyed.

The Clean and Green Foundation Inc. (CAGF) which established the Orchidarium in 1993—in partnership with Nokia Philippines—is "upgrading" the 10,000-sq.-m. property into a flora research center, the first of its kind in the metropolis.

"Our goal is to develop the area into a place where experts, gardening enthusiasts, researchers and students can go to conduct studies and experiments, particularly in horticulture and other plant sciences," said Andres Gelanzo, Orchidarium's consultant for garden operations.

Elaine Tolentino, managing direc-

A WATERFALL welcomes visitors to the Orchidarium. PHOTOS BY MIKKO ASTROLOGO

tor, said the ongoing makeover of the garden got an added push because of the lack of an "honest-to-goodness research center in Metro Manila."

"This is unfortunate because the country is considered to be one of a few orchid diversity havens in the world," Tolentino said. "While orchid shows are held regularly in malls and parks, these exhibits usually allow the sale of plants and the holding of workshops can curtail care. Exhibitors rarely allow their merchandise to be studied by those who are interested in orchids."

THE PHILIPPINES is one of the few orchid diversity havens worldwide.

King and Queen

An utterly fascinating green world, the Orchidarium is home to about 1,300 species of orchids, two of which are the greenish-polyfour, the "king," of orchids whose flowers can grow up to two meters and the woody-stemmed or scrambling, the "queen."

A lot of the country's endemic and indigenous plants and flowers, including pulos, ferns, dendrobiums, bromeliads and heliconias can also be found in the garden which used to be a parking lot behind the Museum of the Filipino People on Teodoro F. Valencia Circle in Ermita Park.

Gelanzo said they hope to some up with an even bigger collection of species of Philippine orchids and other plants "to become worthy of being called a research center."

"We hope to include endangered species of plants not only for research purposes but also for the benefit of the other generations to come," he stressed.

To achieve their goal, Gelanzo said their priority would be the reintroduction of a nursery where young plants can be grown and later sold for the upkeep of the garden, the establishment of a workshop area where flora enthusiasts can learn a thing or two about gardening and a bigger library for books and other useful research materials on plants.

Virgin forest

The portion of the property is already being transformed to look like a virgin forest complete with an artificial stream. To be called "Pook ni Maria Makiling," the area will showcase unusual kinds of plants and fruit bearing Philippine trees.

Humidity-control modules are also being built to increase the garden's moisture level to at least 50 percent. This will be complemented by more falls and ponds, Gelanzo said.

"Mist generators would be distributed throughout the garden to create a fog-like effect which would nurture the orchids' dietary roots when there are no rains or

SEE A 18

Metropolis' first flora center soon to open at Manila Orchidarium

like a virgin forest complete with an artificial stream. To be called "Pook ni Maria Makiling," the area will showcase unusual kinds of plants and fruit bearing Philippine trees.

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SEE A 18

No parties for this royalty

Prince Andrea of Monaco would rather visit the poor in Payatas than hobnob with the elite

By CJ Yap

UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN MANILA, Andrea Pierre Casiraghi of Monaco was deluged with invitations to parties and social engagements, but the handsome prince politely declined most of them.

One of the world's most eligible bachelors would much rather spend his time with the boys and girls of Payatas, Quezon City.

The 22-year-old son of Princess Caroline was not in town for a second call, but to touch base with Filipino children living in some of the most destitute communities in the country and find out what can be done to help them.

He came upon the invitation of Amado Valdez Foundation — an organization dedicated to giving shelter and support to abused children, of which his mother is a patron.

The third son, in his own words, his way of "making a difference, a very small difference" in the lives of poor Filipino children.

On Friday Andrea spoke before a group of students at the Ateneo de Manila University about the role and the responsibility of the privileged class in helping the less fortunate among them.

"No one is too small. As my mother always says, if you have to step off a volcano with a glass of water, you should do it," he said.

Glass of water

"Think of yourself as that little glass of water that makes a difference in the world," he said.

Andrea revealed an experience at Boys Harbor: "Suddenly, 11-16 kids appeared out of nowhere. Five-, six-, seven-year-old — always using drugs, not knowing how to read, never having had a roof to sleep under."

Wake-up call

He told the audience: "You are very, very, very lucky... You should ask yourself: Do I want this situation to continue?

"You should have the strength to look into yourself and say, do I want to be part of the 18 percent of the Filipinos who can get to university and do nothing about this? Do I want to leave 90 percent of the population without an education? I'm sure you don't."

'Horrible place'

Andrea also described going to Payatas: "Horrible place. Horrible place that I'm ever gonna be."

At this point, many of the Ateneo students laughed, prompting the prince to remark: "I don't understand why you're laughing. It's very serious."

He urged the students to reach out to the poorest communities. "Now that I came, I want to see that people will go to the dump[site]. Lucky people like you, who have education, who belong to the elite of the nation."

"I've seen amazing things in the Philippines. I've seen things like sex slaves in developed countries. But I've seen extreme poverty, too. And those differences cannot continue," he said.

Father Carmelo Catung, one of the organizers, said Andrea's schedule for his trip to the Philippines spoke volumes about his commitment toward helping children.

No time to relax

"He is original visionary, he was supposed to go and [go to some] world class resorts, but he asked that most of them be cancelled so he can have more time to visit the places being served by Amado Inchauspe," he said.

"When told that most people wanted to host parties for him, again he politely declined. He said he had more important work to do," Catung said.

He said what impressed him most about Andrea's many pledges to the local press the past days: "A young man simply dressed, carrying a poor infant, seated with his privileged, smiling kids, the picture of youth that provokes kindness, and compassion and hope."

Andrea is the eldest son of Princess Caroline and her second husband, Stefano Casiraghi, as heir to an Italian oil fortune. He is involved in time in the Olympic after his mother.

Blonde and athletic, he was named one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People in 2002. He is fluent in English, French, German and Italian.

PRINCE Andrea speaks before students of his Ateneo.

"I'VE SEEN amazing things in the Philippines. But I've seen extreme poverty, too."

TALES OF THE CITY

MetroBriefs

New classrooms for students

SOME 2,000 students in Pandacan City who were displaced when a fire gutted their school would soon have new classrooms to return to. This was announced recently by Mayor Herminia Ramiro Jr. after being assured that the Department of Public Works and Highways has promised to help finance the construction of 120 classrooms befitting the status of a city. Ramiro, when the city school board is asked, "We need P40 million to build a new school but we had no available funds." Besides said in an interview. A big share (and the Pandacan Elementary School (Main) and the San Dionisio Elementary School late last month. To accommodate the students, classes are held in three shifts. The original documents, board plans for the construction of a six-year high school and a city college next year. Jessica dl. city

Photographers forum set today

"SHOOTOUT," participants in the ongoing state-of-the-art forum for young Photographers will close their "photo stories" on the youth in Metro Manila at the GE Museo Ateneo de Manila University today. The forum, an organized by the Philippine Center for Photojournalism, the Asia-Europe Foundation, the World Press Photo Foundation, aims to create a network of young photographers and provide a platform for discussion on the professional aspects of photojournalism. Magdalena Romero, art director and head of photography of the National Geographic Magazine (France); Hans-Jürgen Burkard, photographer for Stern and Geo Magazine (Germany) and veteran Filipino photojournalists Alex Baluyut and Ernesto Bautista of Agence France-Presse were among those who facilitated the forum. For more information, please contact Jeremy Domingo at 426-5-825 [824] or Emma Tolentino at 0905-809-1121

Life in the wild in the heart ...

From page A-7

when the cost is too hot for the delicate flowers and leaves," he added.

Through the years, the Orchidarium has gone to great lengths to be accessible—said Sto.—not only for its visitors but also for botanists, horticulturists and orchidologists who act as tour guides, providing visitors with a wealth of information.

"There would be more ecology-based games and lessons to ensure that students would no longer look at Science classes as boring," said Dolores, who added that even the garden staff's competitiveness for handling tours and workshops would also be enhanced.

Swaize pit

But CIGH, with the help of a P4 million financial grant from Nokia, assured park visitors of a more thrilling visit as they plan to build a tree house and a hanging bridge with a snake pit underneath.

Gerald Pendler, marketing manager of Nokia, said the mobile phone company would also continue its "Nokia Reconnect" program which is organized by itself to give underprivileged communities the opportunity to experience the rich and diverse environment of the Philippines via the Orchidarium.

One of Manila's favorite leisure area for students, lovers, families and anyone who needs a little quiet time, the Orchidarium gets its share of visitors who are interested in educational lectures and demonstrations on caring for garden plants. Others find it a good place to get inspiration or lessons about for special landscaping designs suitable to city gardening, particularly where pollution and bleak pose special challenges and demands.

Every 1st of planted space at Dr. Orchidarium has been carefully designed and sections are delineated by cutting names. The pumpula, from the entrance gate that faces Agoncillo Circle, a park welcomes visitors under a display of trees at the Trellis of Waves that leads to the Philippine Ignorm Island, a showcase of plants that can only be found in the country.

Palm Beach is an ideal stop in the walk through the garden because the landscape groups a collection of palms featuring the endless the national leaf of the Philippines, growing to sand-covered and. Other palms in the collection include the Fishtail, Miss Oder, Pinanga, Majesty Palm and the Windward Palm.

Varda Alliance

The garden has also to improve new collection of varieties—cultivars of orchids that are considered to be the most magnificent genus of the orchid family—at the Varda Alliance.

Visitors can likewise experience horticultural excellence at the New Gully, a depository of a variety of ferns, and pay for Indonesian Garden Hill for rhododendrons and Bonsai Bank for bonsai beds.

Two other collections that should not be missed by visitors are the Hibiscus Patch and the Ginseng garden between they showcase different species newly propagated by Filipino plant breeders. The Ginseng garden proves that mammoth plants can thrive in cool conditions. They are all named after the Philippines' first ladies.

Rhizome finally, on the other hand, is where all varieties of gingers[a namesake] are delineated. Some of 1998 gems, leading their bright colors to the surrounding green. Pioneer this Lady Amelia Ileana, an orchid flower herself who is also the chair of the CIGH, displays her favorite plants, including bromeliads, to Philip's Curious.

While the park remains an oasis that offers something for most age groups, what makes signs done are the Rocky Trail, a challenge for the young and old to test balancing and skills as they climb the 30.6 wall, and the Water Experience wherein one can wander between a waterfall and a rock wall.

Reflexology Walk

Refugees can also take off their shoes or sandals and walk barefoot to experience the healing and soothing sensations of the Reflexology Walk; or hunt their books and fish at the Hispanic Lagoon.

But the Butterfly Pavilion, where one gets lessons in lepidopterology (study of butterflies) firsthand, remains a hands-down favorite among visitors. The pavilion is so designed that the visitor is led through a pathway where each step corresponds to a phase in the life of the butterfly—from the fragile, creepy-caterpillar, suspended chrysalis, and, finally, to magnificent adult.

At least 30 species of butterflies flutter around fantasies, star clusters, citrus host plants (where butterflies lay their eggs) and nectar plants (their favorite meals). Artificial nests made as sweeper fruits and a solution of 10 percent sugar and 90 percent water are also provided.

Food

One of the services rendered by the Orchidarium is supplying live butterflies for weddings. As an alternative to rice and flowers or petals, butterflies are more naturefriendly and [e]conomical.

The end of the garden pathway leads to the Scented Grotto where a collection of sweet-smelling plants and flowers like sampaguita, ilama de noche, ylang-ylang, among others, can be found. A forum of reptiles that features snakes donated by activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes can also be viewed beside the pavilion.

For the birds, too

The Orchidarium's lush foliage has made it a favorite nesting place for many birds, Gelanzon said, adding that the most prominent species made room the feed smells of spoiled coming from wildlife.

After seven tripping, parkgoers can feast on the gastronomical delights offered by Bachanal, a restaurant right at the center of the garden.

There is so much else to see at Orchidarium. After a thrilly short tour, one learns a great deal about the environment while getting a glimpse of an idyllic life—[t]o the wild right in the heart of the city.

(The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion is open daily (except Mondays), from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance fees are P100 for adults and P60 for students and senior citizens. Special rates are given for educational tours.)

THE ORCHIDEARIUM supplies live butterflies for weddings.

A BUTTERFLY feasts on fruits.

A DISPLAY of orchids at the Rocky Trail; a challenge for young and old to test balancing skills as they climb the 30.6 wall.

THE ORCHIDEARIUM has an impressive collection of orchids.

STUDENTS can learn about the different stages in the life of a butterfly at the Butterfly Pavilion.

THE LUSH foliage in the area has made it a favorite nesting place for birds, too.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever work can be contracted to secure a better life

Ex-Freestyle bassist now plays Down Under

By Franco Emmar Nuñez, Cora

HE IS ONE OF THE founding members of the Freestyle band when it broke into the music scene in 1998. But after recording his last gig with the gang a year ago, Carlo Tapia finally made his move to try his luck in the land Down Under.

It took almost four years of weighing options before former bassist Carlo Tapia decided to leave the band and continue life with his family in Sydney, Australia where he works as a concierge.

"It was a tough decision, but one I made with my family in mind. I knew migrating was inevitable," Carlo told Inquirer adding there really wasn't the best for their only daughter, 5-year-old Sabine Isabel.

Married to Krizia Espinosa for four years now, Carlo said that making their daughter to Australia is ultimately good for the child who is exposed to an Australian playschool.

"Krizia and I know how we want to raise Sabine, and in Australia, we can achieve that," he said.

Carlo said Krizia met in 1996 in one of their gigs in Davao where Freestyle was only starting out. He was 19 then while she 18-year-old Krizia was in town visiting her family.

"Sibling is the audience, she caught my eye and I felt I had to meet her," Carlo said. "There was a strong connection between us but it stays no further because she didn't believe in long distance relationships. We stayed friends but somehow lost contact for many years."

BEST OF TIMES: Tapia and wife Krizia (center) with other band members and friends during a dinner in Manila, standing (from left), Mikki and Tommy Caliando, Cedrick Pecana, Gerald and Anna Bautista, Mike Lim; seated from left: Tet and Jinky Escuro, Joshua and Aileen Broderick

Getting married

Then in 2000, when Carlo was already working in Manila, Krizia came home. But her stay and time spent with Carlo during trips and gigs grew beyond friendship. After that, "we were inseparable," he said.

They got hanged went in Davao, May 2002, and plans of migration were discussed thereafter.

But it was not easy for the Freestyle bassist to just leave the band while Freestyle is constantly topping the charts and staging sold-out shows here and abroad. Their powerhouse of rich harmonies and sounds has produced hits like "Before I let you go," "No show" and their version of "Bakit ngayon ka lang," among others.

However, in December 2005, the 29-year-old Management graduate from Ateneo de Davao University left Manila first with the "blessing and love" of his bandmates, he recounted.

"I left with their blessings and love, and we were drinking and laughing until dawn on the eve of my last day in Manila. There were no problems; I made sure that there would be a smooth transition when I left," he said.

Early days

Carlo is now replaced by Jomar del la Cruz on bass and joined by new voices of Mike Lim and Joshua Broderick. Still playing exactly Pinoy tunes are pioneers Jinky Vidal-Escudal, Tet Escuro (guitar), Gerald Bautista (drums) and Mikki Caliando (keyboards).

A native of Martina, Davao City, Carlo started his music career with the rock band "Shared Youth" when college schoolmates Jinky Vidal and Tet Escuro thought of forming a band.

In 1994, Freestyle was born in their first gig at the Stone Bar at the Apo View Hotel in Davao. The group started with seven young musicians who blended together successfully.

"It was Tet's idea to call the band 'Freestyle' for the right and then we decided to keep the name for good," he said.

The band is one of the roots DJ's DPM heavyweights and most couples-after groups, with their breaks for selling tapes sells their 1,000 and pop hits.

Best years in band

He spent the best years of his life with the band, he said, adding that the band members are almost like "family."

"It [band] was my comfort zone. I loved what I was doing. I never really thought about travelling before but with Freestyle, I got to see many places, meet lots of interesting people and basically did things I didn't think I would do. The busy schedule sometimes took its toll on me, but it was all worth it," he said.

He first broke the news of his move to Sydney to bandmates Mikki Caliando and Gerald Bautista. He told the rest of his mates a week after.

"I felt the band on a high note with my last gig being recorded at the U2x DVD concert "Live at Ultrasat," he said.

While Carlo employed in fruit-juice Sydney while his wife works in University of Sydney, money was no big deal for them. They are now living in rich-list in Lewes.

The couple has bought their own house and are planning to move soon.

He commutes into the city for his day job. Depending on his shifts, he picks up Sabine from Playschool at noon his family at home for dinner.

Australian gigs

Though Carlo left the Philippines, he never left his music. In fact, during weekends Carlo makes gigs with other Filipino musicians and "trainee" Aussie musicians while he works during regular days.

"On his rest days, Carlo wouldn't help playing his bass guitars or catching up on football. "It's a session musician, I occasionally have gigs on weekends," he said.

Carlo said migrating was easy for him since his wife and daughter are Australian citizens. It is also his plans of getting a citizenship soon but said that his "heart still belongs to the Philippines—as 'forever' where he was born and raised.

Carlo hasn't fully adjusted to living Down Under. To him, missing his friends and continuous to be—is a learning experience.

"I'm still emotionally adjusting to having an eight-hour job," he said adding that he also has to do the housework after the day job since they don't have a housekeeper in Sydney.

He cooks, cleans and babysits Sabine, Carlo said.

It's humbling and liberating at the same time. It's hard work—physically and emotionally, but change is good, and life must go on," he said.

Asked of his future plans, Carlo said he wants "to find himself and completely adjusting" to his life. Definitely, he wants to continue to play his music and reach playing hours to whatever worth to earn, he said.

"I'm not making any grand plans," he said when asked if he senses to break into the Aussie music scene. "I just want to—continue playing, be it as paid gigs or for fun, and to continue to learn and grow as a musician."

Providing his family their own home, he breathes, travel together, and provide a good education for Sabine, was what Carlo wishes to accomplish in the years to come.

Another Filipino and coworker/ ex-bassist says how Carlo has coped with the first months in Sydney.

"Carlo is down-to-earth and outgoing, and we always talk about family and plans in life," said Jason Alcedo, chief concierge at the Shore hotel.

Jason knew Carlo and wife Krizia for years now. As Australian citizen since 1988, he helped Carlo to get into the job.

"We grew up together," Jason said adding that he went to the same school with Krizia in Cebu. He says "And now I'm missing [public this!] to their first born Sabine."

"We agree for the most part that our host back home," Jason said, adding that once in while Carlo and family would cook Filipino dishes when they are together.

Carlo said that he misses his relatives and friends, the green mangoes and Pale Pilsen to the Philippines.

"But I enjoy eating out here," he said. "Australia is such a multicultural country as there you can grab different types of authentic fare every night—Vietnamese, Malaysian, Lebanese, Italian, Indian, Himalayan."

From time to time, he visits the country for holidays and special occasions and he finds time to still get in touch with the gang especially to Gerald Bautista whom he talks to the most.

After a year of breaking up with the band, Carlo said that he badly misses playing and just being with them.

But he said that he is more active now than he used to for when he was with the band in the Philippines.

"A regular person on an average salary never can have outside dinners, an overseas holiday at the end of the year, a house and a car, among others. It's definitely different from my previous 'musicians' lifestyle. I got accused to though," he added.

But definitely he will be back, he said.

"I am looking forward to our reunion concert," he said.

FOR THE LOVE OF A CHILD: Carlo Tapia, with daughter Sabine Isabel: "I want the best for her."

TAPIA, with Krizia, and daughter Sabine Isabel cheering the breeze one Sunday at a park in Sydney.

At last, a guidebook for Filipino workers in Hong Kong

By Isabel Escoda
Contributor

IT'S A GIVEN THAT THE GLOBALization of labor has produced the proliferation of migrant workers around the world. In the Western hemisphere it's mainly the Mexicans and other Latinos who head for the U.S. Europe is the magnet that attracts Middle Easterners and Africans. In Asia, destinations like Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan are the lures for job-seeking Filipinos, Indonesians, Sri Lankans, Thais, Nepalis and Indians.

The need to survive has produced those waves of migrants. The circumstance of have-nots versus the haves are inevitable, as impoverished workers seek jobs that pay better, salaries not even their bosses earn. Such a phenomenon nevertheless only produces the exploiters who take advantage of desperate and demoralized persons. Hence the never-ending exposés of cases of injustice and abuse of migrant workers worldwide—whether they be in homes, factories, construction sites or beauty parlors.

In Hong Kong, as in Singapore, migrant workers have long been treated as second class citizens. This has brought on the inherent fatalism among Filipinos who frequently use the expression "dapat na lang" (just bear it) whenever they speak of overwork, underpay, intimidation and abuse in their daily working lives. It points to the irony of the fact that the Chinese employers themselves sprang from forebears who were immigrant and Western writers who have spoken up and condemned the fatalism against the workers' human rights.

One of these outfits is called "Helpers for the Domestic Helpers" (HDH) which was organized some years ago by a British lawyer worried to self-flagellation. Then there are the Christian groups headed by Ameen and European churches, foremost among these is the Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers whose staff is composed of Filipinos. And there are the other organizations, some of them left-leaning, which organize protests and demonstrations on behalf of the workers.

Know your rights

Now American law professor Jim Rice, who teaches in a Hong Kong university has written a book that deals with the duties and rights, not just of the employers, but also of the employees. His book, "Hire Free Rights Internally," is written to help coerce language that offers a wealth of information about regulations, conditions and especially advice for situations of circumstances in the domestics.

Rice asks labor on the Hong Kong Government for its labor-law attitude towards the foreign workers in their midst, when earning a blind eye to rampant violations of the labor contracts. The labor contract for domestics stipulates a minimum wage, but countless employers underpay their help (some making their help sign receipts saying they are receiving the full pay). A proper food allowance is also required, but the domestics often have to shell out their own money for their food. Just recently, Filipinos who find they are expected to eat only their employers' leftovers. Clothes for the winter are not always provided, nor electric fans for the cell-like rooms in cramped servants' quarters. City is lucky if a room is given to them, forcing to cope with Hong Kong's nerve-biting commuters; some lucky ones are those made to sleep with infants and children who are unaccustomed to sleeping.

Underpaid, overworked

Rest periods during the day, also mentioned in the labor contract, are often neglected when the maids are made to work 12-16 hours a day. Reports are rife of the maids being found on duty in the crack of dawn to wait their employers' cues and walk their dogs), having to stay up late to serve midnight playing family members till past midnight.

In his book, Rice discusses the migrant workers' myriad problems and offers ways to deal with them. He has also advice for those having difficulties with servants, including visa and misdemeanor. And he warns against the parties who prey on job seekers and also those the workers nothing loans. In contrast, "To dealings with people with powers to affect your life complement agencies, loan sharks, immigration officials and employers, your own best interests are very different from theirs ... Get as much information as possible and ... Use (it) to your greatest advantage. Employment agencies and loan sharks operate most times and they want as much of it from as many migrant workers ... What employers want it to get as much work as they possibly can for as little money as possible. That's why they hire workers from countries poorer than Hong Kong (because their) labor rates are considerably cheap-

er than local workers."

Rice also highlights the fact of the Hong Kong government's inherent racism towards the migrant workers. This is shown by the fact that they are not given the privilege (as other foreigners) of citizenship even after living "seven years" may (or) be seven.

Through the efforts of an American businesswoman who understands the book's publication and a friends FB mate who is handling its promotion, the book has just come out. The cover picture was taken by a Filipina photographer whose graphic designer husband handled the book design. A Tagalog translation is being planned, as well as one in Bahasa.

Through the book, the hope is that the Hong Kong government will take heed of the injustices being perpetrated in their territory which they have labeled "Rats. Hold City" and that they'll do the right thing, literally, "Hire Your Rights Internally" should be disseminated throughout other parts of the world where migrant workers toil.

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Olonan

EU offers larger Lebanon force

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—AFTER A WEEK OF CONFUSION and mixsteps, Europe pledged to add up to 6,900 troops to the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, officials said at an emergency meeting of European Union foreign ministers here on Friday.

But the officials cautioned that the force would not be used to disarm Hezbollah. That job, if it is done at all, will be left to the Lebanese government and army.

The largest contribution to the expanded force came from Italy, which confirmed that it would contribute 3,000 troops and was asked by Secretary General Kofi Annan to command France in command of the force in February. The force seemed unlikely to reach the 15,000-troop level authorized under UN Resolution 1701, which ended the fighting in Lebanon.

Annan, who attended the emergency session of EU foreign ministers here, said he hoped several thousand of the additional troops would deploy "within the next few days, not the next few weeks," and that the total force would arrive in three waves extending over several months.

Annan also said agreement was reached on new rules of engagement that authorize the peacekeepers to use deadly force against those preventing them from doing their job. He added, however, that disarming Hezbollah...a central goal of the UN resolution on Lebanon—"is not going to be done by force."

He said he would visit Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories before next week and then make recommendations to the Security Council on ways to resolve the political stalemate that led to the crisis.

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, called on Israel to lift its air and sea blockade of Lebanon that has prevented aid and other necessities from getting through.

Britain said that it would send 200 soldiers and that the number could rise to 400. Finland pledged 250 soldiers.

Germany, Sweden, Greece, the Netherlands and Denmark all offered ships and other naval assets. Ireland said it would provide a military aircraft, in addition to a navy frigate. Annan said the United Nations had received offers of troops from countries outside Europe as well, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh, and that he was consulting with Turkey about whether it would provide troops.

Russia was reported to be considering sending troops to Lebanon, but Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said no decision had been made. New York Times

LUCID Renalen is reunited with his mother and family members Aug. 25 after spending months with two others lost in the Pacific. AFP

Court drops corruption case against Suharto

JAKARTA—AN INDONESIAN appeals court has upheld a ruling by the Attorney General's office to drop a corruption case against former President Suharto because of his poor health, a court official said on Thursday.

A lower court in June ruled in favor of a lawsuit by activists that prosecutors should press on with charges against Suharto, who is accused of graft during his 32-year rule.

"The panel of judges examining the case ruled that the decision to drop the Suharto case was legally valid," said Yohanes Sahardi, a spokesperson for the South Jakarta district court, which overturned the June ruling.

One of the considerations in that former President Suharto is suffering from non-fluent aphasia, which prevents him from communicating orally and in writing," he said.

He said activists wishing to challenge the ruling can file an appeal in the Supreme Court.

Nine non-government organizations had asked the lower court to reverse decision General Abdul Rahman Saleh's decision in May to drop graft charges against Suharto.

When the attorney general made his decision, Suharto was in hospital undergoing a series of tests [illegible] to normal bleeding.

He has since returned home.

Suharto, 85, has had a variety of health problems and has been hospitalized several times since he lost power in 1998.

Courts have ruled in the past that he was too ill to condition to stand trial.

The graft charges relate to allegations of misuse of funds by seven charity groups once headed by Suharto, although his critics say the amounts involved are a small part of billions of dollars misspent or improperly funneled to his family and associates during his rule. Reuters

FIND THE VENDORS IF YOU CAN Derek Rhode, left, and Richard Middleton, both 14, man a balloon stand at the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival in Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 25. AP

College student gets dynamite onto plane

HOUSTON, TEXAS—A COLLEGE STUDENT has been arrested after carrying a stick of dynamite into the United States on board a jetliner from Argentina in the most serious of several security slaves to rattle jittery airlines in the same day.

Howard McFarland Polk, 21, was arrested Friday after explosives-sniffer dogs detected an odor while he passed through customs at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport and a security dog sleuthed out his baggage for inspection, revealing the dynamite and other explosives devices.

The dynamite discovery sparked one of several alerts stopping airline flights Friday [illegible] over security was ramped up in the wake of a thwarted plot in Britain to blow up US-bound airliners with explosives smuggled in drink containers.

An American airliner [illegible] flying from Manchester, England to Chicago was diverted to Bangor, Maine after US authorities learned of an unspecified threat to the aircraft...the FBI said.

And a third jet operated by US Airways and bound for Charlotte, North Carolina out of Phoenix, Arizona was diverted to Oklahoma City after an unruly passenger was subdued, Transportation Security Administration sources said.

There were no confirmations of terrorist plots or other planned attacks, but the incidents underscored the general unease in the travel industry.

According to a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement statement late Friday, the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force determined that Polk's carrying explosives into the country was not intended as a terrorist attacks.

But he was taken into custody anyway. "We are not certain of his motives, but carrying an explosive device onto an aircraft is a violation of law," FBI Agent Melissa Hastings said. AFP

After 9 months adrift at sea, survivors greeted as folk heroes

SAN JUAN, SOUTH—THREE FISHERMEN who said they survived months adrift at sea in a 29-foot boat returned home on Friday to Mexico, where some greeted them as folk heroes, some lauded them as a testament to the power of faith, and others cast a skeptical eye on their epic story of seamanship and survival.

In Mexico City the three thin but healthy looking men stepped off a plane from Los Angeles on Friday morning and spoke to reporters before taking flights to their hometowns in three coastal states. They faced a barrage of questions about the veracity of their story and, when asked, said they would take the television rights to a movie.

Salvador Ordonez, Jesus Vidana and Lucio Rendon said they were hired for an ill-fated, shark fishing expedition that left this fishing village on Oct. 28, 2005. They said they soon lost their heavy shark-fishing tackle and ran out of fuel trying to find it. Winds pushed them out to sea, where a current caught them and carried them nearly 5,000 miles west.

Along the way they said, the source of the boat, which they knew only as Juan Israel, and another fisherman, called "El Mono," died of starvation and were thrown overboard. The three survivors stayed alive surviving and eating raw fish and seabirds. They swallowed worms, and starved all dying of thirst in the months they spent on the Marshall Islands, nine months and nine days after they left shore. They makes their fear of received one of the longest on record.

Ordonez, 37, said he seemed at the start of the trip because the boat's owner had not had its enough provisions for the 15-day shark fishing trip, which lasts three times as long.

Once disaster struck and the men found themselves being sucked out into the Pacific Ocean, they turned to what they knew best—fishing, fixing some broken and other equipment. Once aboard, they fashioned hooks out of engine parts and lines from rubber.

The three survivors learned to eat raw fish and birds, and Ordonez drank fish blood. But the two others soon could not digest the food, they said, and began vomiting blood. The owner died one night in January, the second man died a month later.

As dusty here, the men have become national symbols of fortitude. New York Times

NATIONAL HERITAGE ON FIRE A woman walks past the 19th-century Trinity Cathedral as it burns after raging and the central dome collapsed in St. Petersburg, Russia, Aug. 31. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

S. Korea certain North has atom bombs

SEOUL—South Korea is certain North Korea has nuclear weapons and South's best estimate is Pyongyang has produced one or two bombs, its defense minister said on Friday, amid reports that the North may be preparing a nuclear test. Its other senior official said South Korea and China had agreed to cooperate in preventing the North from conducting a test, which would cause a grave situation in the region. Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung said he believed the North has one or two nuclear weapons, but his remarks to parliament on Friday were among the strongest yet on the issue from a government of alarmed caution. "We believe North has one or two," Yoon told a parliamentary hearing when asked about the North's nuclear arsenal. When asked if the South has no doubt about the North's possession of a nuclear weapon, Yoon said, "That's correct." Yoon also said there was not enough evidence at present to conclude the North is about to conduct its first nuclear weapons test. Reuters

High oil prices unjustified-Saudi king

RIYADH—Saudi King Abdullah was quoted on Saturday as saying high oil prices were unjustified because global markets were well supplied. The king also told Richard Al-Arenzi newspaper in an interview that Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, enjoyed considerable oil prices, despite the benefits it would reap from higher prices. "The kingdom's oil policy is based on moderate prices and despite the benefits higher oil prices bring to us, we call for moderation in oil prices," the king told the Saudi-owned newspaper. "Oil production is plentiful, so I am puzzled by the fluctuations in the market and the unjustified high oil prices," he added. Oil prices spiked 70 cents higher at $73.51 a barrel. London Stock rose 3 cents to $72.91. Reuters

Ex-Ukraine leader draws 9 years

DNEPROPETROVSK—Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko was sentenced to nine years in prison and fined $10 million on Friday after being convicted on 18 counts of money laundering, racketeering, extortion, bribery and tax evasion. Lazarenko, 52, has denied all charges. He was prime minister during the chaotic, early years of President Leonid Kuchma's rule in the 1990s. He is the first foreign leader to be convicted in a US court since Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega in 1992. Reuters

Russia rules out UN sanctions on Iran

MOSCOW—RUSSIA REJECTED calls for tough sanctions against Iran and Tehran warned on Friday against conflict with Tehran, raising doubts whether it will face swift penalties if nuclear work is not halted by an Aug. 31 deadline.

Responding in an offer of economic incentives to stop enriching uranium, Iran turned to its world powers on Tuesday it could vote in its program as a result of talks to implement the package—but not an ephemeralities in they claimed.

The reply seemed tailored to crack the bricks united front of four Western powers and Russia and China who agreed the UN deadline. The West even found success in their as a warning threat to press. Russia and China, key trade partners of Iran, do not.

"I know of no consensus on world practice and positions experience in which sanctions have achieved their aim and proved effective," Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov told reporters during a trip to Russia's Far east.

"Moreover, I believe that the question is not so obvious at the moment for the UN Security Council or the group of six to consider any introduction of sanctions. Russia stands for further political and diplomatic efforts to settle the issue," Ivanov said in remarks Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Washington has said the six powers will move quickly to adopt sanctions if Iran disregards the deadline. Britain, Germany and France have [illegible] sanctions together.

Ivanov said China, both trade partners of Iran, have been unwilling and would veto measures in the Council.

Underlining the confusion, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said he expected Iran to open talks on Iran's third nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani "to get clarification [on Iran's response] and see how we can move the process forward." Reuters

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Sunday SPORTS

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Falcons claw Maroons, lift fading hopes

By Jasmine W. Payo

BEN ROSS PROVES UNSTOPPABLE AS THE Adamson Falcons rolled to a 78-60 victory over the University of the Philippines Maroons to claim a share of third place in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Mapua Auditorium in Intramuros.

GAME'S TOP5 (Philippine Basketball Association) (Pts-reb-ast-blks-stl) (Pts) 4 pts — (None so far)

The massive Adamson 6-foot pivotal a season-best 22 points and 12 rebounds to keep the Falcons' semifinal hopes alive.

The Falcons joined the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Far Eastern University Tamaraws at 9-5, while the Maroons remained in the cellar at 2-7.

Ross pushed the Falcons ahead to stay at 72-69 after the Maroons, starring Marvin Cruz and Nestor Isreal, missed within 63-66 in the 3:22 mark.

Meanwhile, the Ateneo Eagles will shoot for a team record nine straight wins against the UST Tigers at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports arena.

Assured of a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals, the Eagles are still expecting tough games ahead.

"Teams play differently in the second round and I've seen it to my players," said UST coach Pido Jarencio. "The players have adjusted from the absence of key players. The others are starting to deliver."

Another upset

The Tigers are hoping for another upset after stunning the fast Eastern Tamaraws, 77-75, last Thursday.

"We're not talking about the Final Four before," noted Jarencio. "Even if we're one target, we're 2-1 in the second round."

The defending champion Tamaraws are tied at 8-6, while the Junior Maroons and lowly Falcons clinched third place at 6-4 after losing their respective bouts.

UP downed the UE Nuggets, 93-81, while Adamson routed the NU Bullpups, 109-72.

The scores:

Third game (men)

ADMU (82)—M. Lacuesta 10, Tolle 10, Adriposo 12, Aurin 11, Borromeo 8, Ephraim 6, Nolasco 4, R. Sanchez 4, Flavio 2, Enriquez 2, Tenorio 0, Santiago 0, Jocson 0, Apostol 0.

FEU (66)—Penaso 15, Rivera 13, Khalfani 11, Lopez 9, Argamino 6, Bated 4, Bartle 4, Gotla 3, J. Pascual 2, Magalong 0, Alcala 0, Pacheco 0.

Quarters: 20-12, 33-29, 57-42, 82-66

Fourth game (men)

ADAMSON (78)—Ross 22, Lanesky 10, Dagoon 9, Gabalog 8, Bartle 7, Gonzaga 4, Yong 3, Bartee 3, Pennisary 2, Pastores 0, Apuada 0.

UP (60)—Nieto 19, Enad 14, Cruz 11, Israel 6, Sison 5, Reyes 3, Barangan 3, Zarate 2, Ilo 0, Bongcaras 0, Ayeo 0.

Quarters: 19-10, 31-34, 61-50, 78-60

UP's Marvin Cruz drives against Adamson's Leo Canaleta in their game yesterday

Miñoza 2 strokes behind

FRANKIE MIÑOZA IS MAKING FET another solid week as reading a long title drought.

Miñoza, 48, finished three of the last five holes for a five-under par 66 yesterday to win just two shots off solo leader Lee Chong Inmo of Korea after rounds of the 100 million yen (about P44 million) Under Armour ISC Augusta at the Sobu Golf Club in Sakaraba, Japan.

Miñoza carded three birdies on each side against a lone bogey on the eighth as he posted a 34-hole total of 203 for a share of ninth place with Hongerman Rigaki of Japan to remain in the running for the 20 million yen (about P8.8 million) champion's purse.

Lee fired a 65 for a 201, just a shot ahead of Japanese Nobuhiro Masuda (65), Taichi Teshima (66), Shingi Akimoto (69) and Mitsuhiro Tsuruyama (70).

Miñoza is coming off his best showing so far this season of 11th place in the San Clemente Classic two weeks ago, which also was to stake to the money list. The last of his six victories on the Japan Tour came in the 2001 Fujitsu/Sri Chiang. He regained life until this year after losing it following a lackluster 2004 season. Jong-hwan

Juvic still a shot off in Brunei

JUVIC PAGUNSAN WILL ALWAYS HAVE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF the 17th hole of the Empire Hotel & Country Club course in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The ruling Filipino star birdied the par 4 17th hole on the second straight day then added another on the final hole yesterday for a four-under-par 67 that kept him tremendously close to a breakthrough victory in the Asian Golf Circuit.

PAGUNSAN

Counting his earlier rounds of 66 and 68, the 27-year-old Pagunsan totaled 201 after 54 holes, just a stroke off Australian co-leaders Peter Fowler (64) and Daniel Chopra (69) after carding an 200 after three rounds of the Brunei Open.

"It (closing birdies) worked out well for me and I am feeling good about my game," said Pagunsan, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games individual titlist. "I hope to continue my performance as I am determined to finish strongly tomorrow."

The duo's five-long birding Pagunsan also birdied holes 2, 4, and 6 to groove with a 32, only to be stymied by a bogey four No. 16.

Pagunsan, who turned pro early this season after nearly benefiting the dying Tour qualifying, admitted that overtaking the Aussies and fending off Chinese Taipei's Kung Yu-chang won't be easy.

The 44-year-old Wang, owner of three Asian Tour titles who had taken the second round, nibbled the back nine with six birdies en route to a 64 that catapulted him to a 202 total. He was tied with Australian Jason Knutzon and Korea's Y.E.

Another Filipino, Antonio Lascuña, gained ground with his second straight 69 for a 203 total, five shots off the pace to a tie with nine others.

Antonio Monsalud, the third and last Filipino qualifier, slumped to a 213 after a 71.

Pilapakan, 33, is currently ranked 14th on the Asian Tour's Ultra order of merit, while Clavesan is seeking a follow-up to his conquest of the 2002 Indore Classic Open.

Pinoys drub Jordanians by 40 points

By Jaen Navarro

HOUSTON—SAN MIGUEL AP MAGNOLIA as overmatched team made up of schoolboys from Jordan last night, 107-67, to make up perfectly for a semifinal clash with the Saudi Arabia all-Stars in the 6th Shell Bizuda Brand Cup.

Jayson Brizuela came on smoking by nailing four early three-pointers, while Ato Taulava bullied the centre frontline of the Jordan All-Stars right from the opening tip as the Filipinos margin the eliminations with a 9-0 card.

The defending champion Filipinos dash with the Saudis, while the 56 Knights of Korea battle the Toronto All-Stars of Australia today for places in the title match.

Barangay Ginebra has its final four games and dropped out of contention on Friday Justice was the other team eliminated.

"We haven't really played our best yet," said SP head coach Chot Reyes. "We simply glad against Jordan and the other teams. Now we played a team which are more matches. We should come up with our s game in the semifinals to prepare us for the finals."

Abdallah Abu Qura and Nabil Al Sagar helped the Jordanians put up a semblance of a fight, 20-22, but Wesley Gonzales, Dennis Seigle and Chan Travis teamed connecting from afar as the Filipinos pulled away.

When Dorian Pitts, Mick Pennisi and Marc Cavalera joined the scoring onslaught, it became clear that it would be a blowout win for the Filipinos.

Brizuela's three-pointers, Pefo's aggressiveness in the paint and thanks to Cavalera and Seigle had the San Miguel AP Team surging to a 61-35 halftime lead.

From there, the Filipinos strolled along as Brizuela and Gonzales continued hitting from the outside while Cavalera provided several offensive sets, including a windmill dunk to the delight of the predominantly Filipino crowd employed to oversees workers here.

The Philippines led by 47 points at one point, 99-54.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL AP (107)—Pitts 23, Pennisi 13, Gonzales 12, Pantoja 11, Taulava 10, Cavalera 9, Seigle 8, Brizuela 4, Ambisnow 4, Mier 4, Pascual 3, Black 2.

JORDAN (67)—Qura 20, Amer 16, Al Sagar 14, Abdul 5, Abdul 4, Hamdan 4, Ahmad 3, Mouammed 2, Qamar 0, Abd 0, Rami 0.

Quarters: 20-22, 61-35, 86-45, 107-67

REYES/ALO

Amacu, STI whip rivals to gain on SSC-Cavite

COMPUTER SCHOOL RIVALS AMACU and STI scored pivotal victories yesterday to crowd the leader-board at the start of the second round of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball at the JSP Gym.

AMACU downed last year's runner-up Centro Escolar, 80-72, while STI crushed five-time defending champion University of Manila, 73-59, to register their eighth victories for identical 8-2 records.

They are just half a game behind silver leader San Sebastian-Carite which remained on top of the six-team second round with an 8-1 slate.

The Titans employed a balanced attack in subduing the Scorpions with Sylvie Zablan and Bong Alba) field 17 and 16 points, respectively.

Arnold Galang unloaded 14 markers, while Chito Jalmo chipped in 12 as Amacu handed CEU its fifth loss in 10 games.

Dexter Abrasaldo stood at the forefront of the Olympians' assault firing 16 points, while point guard Rudel Nieto added 14 points aside four scoring STI's rearmed Bathtub game along.

Jojo Belano and John Morabina each had 10 points for STI, which had to endure a late third-quarter rally by the Hawks.

Rel Santiago, Frank Bunsi and Dexter Baptist finished with 12 points each for the Hawks, once the more dominant team in the league, who fell to 5-5.

FEU (66)—Penaso 15, Rivera 13, Khalfani 11, Lopez 9, Argamino 6, Bated 4, Bartle 4, Gotla 3, J. Pascual 2, Magalong 0, Alcala 0, Pacheco 0.

ADMU (82)—Tolle 17, Aba 16, Nieto 13, Mendoza 11, Gabalo 8, Cainglet 6, Nuñez 6, Cabral 4, Lalic 3, Cortez 2, Villarosa 0, Bagaoi 0.

Quarters: 20-13, 42-32, 62-48, 80-72.

UE (59)—Nuñez 0.

STI (73)—Abrasaldo 16, Nieto 14, Belano 10, Morabina 10, Arsenio 8, Galanga 6, Lasa 2, Ola 2, Lapuz 0, Sta. Ana 0.

UPHSL (66)—Santiago 12, Bunsi 12, Baptist 12, Cortez 10, Bautista 7, Ramos 2, Aquino 2, Lazaro 2, Lacsamana 0, Cabanayan 0, Ferrer 0, Gonzales 0.

Quarters: 13-13, 29-31, 46-42, 73-59.

Grand nephew of RP Olympic swim hero makes Doha Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SWIMMING HAS found another gem in the rough waterways.

Mckinley post-old Daniel Gambley, grand nephew of Filipino Olympic swim hero Teofilo Yldefonso, recently made it to the national team competing in the Doha Asian Games this December according to Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph yesterday.

Gambley, son of an Bicolana mother and a Hawaiian swim coach father, registered the 14th fastest time in the on-going Fina World Youth Championships in Rio de Janeiro for the 50-meter freestyle yesterday.

His time of 23.99 seconds in the semifinals, said Joseph, was good enough to put him in place of RP swim mainstay Ronald Cuerda, who is on a recovery break from swimming" to focus on his studies.

Born and raised in Kapolei, Hawaii, Gambley has seen success in age-group meets like the US Pacific and West Coast Conference.

He started competitive swimming at the age of 10 and underwent "marathon training" to maintain his power and speed including extreme breath holding and daily open fishing, reported Joseph.

Gambley joins the Asiad swim team to be spearheaded by Olympians Miguel Molina and Miguel Molenda.

Molenda considered the country's finest Olympic swimmer after winning back-to-back bronze medals in the 1928 Amsterdam and 1932 Los Angeles Games in the 200-meter breaststroke.

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Salvador gains share of lead in Italy tourney

FILIPINO FIDE MASTER ROLAND SALVADOR romped local bet Axel Bondradchoot to the seventh round on Friday to share the lead with seven others in the 2006 International Chess Tournament in Pesaro, Italy.

Handling black, the Albuferanized Salvador prevailed after 50 moves of a Sicilian Rilibaev defensive to climb to 5.5 points and inch closer to semi-finishing a full-fledged Grandmaster.

The 28-year-old former Philippine Navy standout needs only one more GM result to join the elite group of Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre, Rogelio Antonio Jr., Nelson Mariano II, Buenaventura Villamayor and Jayson Gonzales.

According to the FIDE handbook, an aspiring player aiming to earn a GM result needs to play at least nine GMs scoring from difference between one or more over with a minimum 5.5 or 6.0 points score, depending on the average ratings of his opponents.

In the case of Salvador, he will face in the eighth and penultimate round co-leader GM Emil Gjeshtbi of Albania and hope that his final round opponent will also be a GM.

Other 5.5 pointers were GM Emil Dovhodi (Albania), GM Dimitri Komarov (Ukraine), GM Ivan Cheparinov (GM Bulgaria), GM Mauro Carballo (Cuba), GM Milan Drasko (Serbia and Montenegro), IM Herman Grooten (Netherlands) and IM Luca Shtanji (Italy).

Meanwhile, all the top board encounters in the seventh round ended in draws. Detained against GM Krasimir Comlekov (Ukraine), GM Ivan Cheparinov (GM Bulgaria), GM Mauro Carballo (GM Paraguay), GM Marc Carballo (Cuba), GM Milan Drasko (Serbia and Montenegro), IM Herman Grooten (Netherlands) and IM Luca Shtanji (Italy).

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SPAIN "Bata" Reyes

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante

Bata, Django test mettle of Czechs

Dimakiling obtains first GM result

Crucial cage meeting up

LA Gear backs UAAP squads

War rages as Pacquiao hunts Promoter

Pacquiao, Antonio head GCAP roster

Over the roof and into the lead goes Tiger

AKRON, OHIO—TIGER WOODS is the lead at Firestone is typical.

Woods hitting a 9-iron over the clubhouse roof and escaping with bogey because it was very marked out-of-bounds inside the Bridgestone Invitational nothing short of bizarre on Friday.

Woods birdied his first four holes and then extended it to take a one-shot lead over Brett Quigley, but after made the second-round interrupted was a bogey on his final hole that left Woods feeling lucky after a strange sequence of events.

It started from the tight rough on No. 9 when Woods hit a 9-iron from 157 yards (153 meters) that bounced off the grass, soared over the flag and over the grandstands. It hit the concrete path and bounced onto a balcony and onto the roof.

From the back of the clubhouse, Senior County deputy sheriff Bill Mann was standing when the shot rolled he noticed a golf ball bouncing around the service area below him and went to examine from the Firestone Kitchen staff.

The monkey, Josh Parker, put the ball in the top basket of a cart and started off to an office.

"We were unloading pies on the back of the cart and we saw this golf ball bouncing by," Parker said. "I said, 'who's throwing golf balls at cars?' I went down to the lodge, and they were like, 'I know, everyone is looking for me. They said, 'You stole Tiger Woods' ball.'"

Parker said he saw a swoosh and Dan Pfaltzgraff written in fine print on the ball.

"I didn't notice the 'Tiger' he said.

Woods stood in the fairway for nearly 10 minutes before rules officials arrived and tried to figure out the next step.

It was just chaos behind the ninth green, especially after Paul McGinley hit his shot from the fairway over the green. There were shouting that the ball went into an air-conditioning duct. Others said it went over the roof.

Woods, standing in the back door of the clubhouse, told rules officials what happened. Then, PGA Tour rules official Dillard Pruitt walked to an arc away from the clubhouse until another official, Steve Carreno, used a laser to determine his distance. They came up with 57 yards (52 meters).

There were no penalty because the ground-crash went in the way. AP

Italians get the boot

Ginobili gifts Argentines quarters slot

SAITAMA, JAPAN—MANU GINOBILI SCORED 30 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter until Lithuania survived four missed free throws in the final seconds for a 71-68 victory over Italy on Saturday in the second round of the World Championships.

Italy was ever worse from the line than Lithuania (3-13), making five free throws in the last 2:1 seconds, three by Damiano Basile with 6.6 seconds left and his team down by two points.

"But to save, my story for the last five throws but I have already talked to Basile and he knows during his life he played some very important games for his club and national team," Italy coach Carlo Recalcati said of Basile, a national team member since 1996. "He has made some shots and scored for his club. That's life.

"Basile knows he is the leader of this team and he will be the captain again and he will help the team with regards."

Lithuania will play the winner of the Spain-Serbia and Montenegro game in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

"It was a tough game and everybody expected it," Lithuanian guard Mindaugas Kalnietis said. "We never broke they missed those free throws. We would have won the game easily, but we created a lot of problems for ourselves."

Ginobili scored eight straight points, the last one on 3-pointer, for a 12-9 run that gave Lithuania a 68-59 lead with 5:41 to play.

Marco Belinelli made one of two from the line with 7.8 seconds left to get Italy within 69-68.

Italy fouled immediately on the rebounds and Linas Kleiza, who plays for the Denver Nuggets, missed two free throws. But Ussmar Stonjalis, who signed with the Washington Wizards this summer, grabbed the rebound of the second and sent Basile with 4.9 seconds to go.

He missed both, but 6-foot-11 Dickie Lorentz stepped in the area of the second to give Lithuania a 71-68 lead with 2.8 seconds to go.

Belinelli was fouled near midcourt with 2.1 seconds left. He missed the first free throw, then missed the second intentionally. The rebound bounced around until it was grabbed by Basile, who unbelievably was fouled by Ginobili as he threw up a desperation 3-point attempt with less than a second to play.

He missed all three attempts, and the buzzer finally sounded to give Lithuania the victory.

"I have witnessed and experienced things like that as a player," Lithuania coach Ainaras Stombergas said of the missed free throws. "When an rounded rebounds at the end of the game we had the players on the floor who could get those rebounds."

Meanwhile, Manu Ginobili took charge in the third quarter and made up for his team's 1-for-16 shooting from behind the 3-point line Saturday as Argentina beat New Zealand, 79-63, in the second round of the basketball world championship.

The San Antonio Spurs guard scored 28 points, including Argentina's only 3-pointer of the game, a shot that made it 50-50 with 3 minutes, 47 seconds remaining.

"In the last five games we were making the 3-point shots," said Argentina coach Sergio Hernandez. "Today New Zealand had a lot do with us making only one." AP

THE THRILL of victory and the agony of defeat is in full display as the World Championships. Fabricio Oberto (left) celebrates as Argentina advances at the expense of New Zealand's Mirza Bellinelli is inconsolable after Italy suffers a tournament-ending loss to Lithuania.

Two aces, one round

SEMI, NEVADA—TIGER WOODS DIDN'T SPEAK HIS FIRST word until he looked down at a translator after the Japanese golfer became the first player to make two holes-in-one in the same round on the PGA Tour. But when it came to a question aimed at his partner for celebrating Friday night, the 28-year-old from Tokyo understood him. "Drink much more," the party," he said with a smile while Mizuhiro Kobayashi looked on. Woods and Kobayashi — who each aced the 17th hole at the Sahara (206 yards) — finished the tournament tied for 40th at 4-under par at the Reno-Tahoe Open. Ian Poulter (198 yards), aced the 6th hole at Montreux Golf and Country Club's course in Switzerland on Thursday. Jose Maldonado, 46, acquitted him to a one-stroke victory at the Senior PGA Championship. He had left him 8 strokes for the tournament — six strokes behind the leader, Bob Estes. AP

He went from rebel rocker to tennis titan

MIAMI BEACH—FROM REBEL TO REGAL, Andre Agassi has seen it all in a two-decade long career that will finally end at the US Open.

He took tennis by storm when he first blasted onto the scene out of Las Vegas in 1986 — a tanktop with a mohawk-like hairdo, fluorescent shoes and an attitude to boot.

Image was everything was the signal slogan, but Agassi's game was so much more than image and would metamorphose over the next 20 years.

Along with great rival Pete Sampras, he soon supplanted the ageing Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe as the figureheads of a golden generation of US tennis players.

Agassi's career has followed that of Wimbledon in 1992, at the US Open two years later and in Australia the following year. He soon cranked world No. 1 for 30 weeks from April 1995, the next he shared with Sampras and took Olympic gold at Atlanta in 1996.

But it was his goal to last, and in 1997 Agassi suffered a depressing mid-career slump that saw him plummet to No. 141 in the world rankings and emerge to serve Brooke Shields.

The chastened Agassi rose slowly and gainfully emerged from the period, was unlike the gung-ho Agassi that had preceded it.

The brash, devil-may-care swagger was gone, and in its place emerged a dedicated professional tennis player, who became a spokesman for the sport and a role model for millions.

It is no coincidence that asked recently to look back on his career and pick the greatest moment, Agassi had no hesitation in selecting his matches win in the 1999 French Open final when he came back from two sets to love down against Andrei Medvedev to complete his collection of Grand Slam titles.

That was something that proved Agassi such greats as Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander, Ivan Lendl and Sampras and Agassi

ANDRE Agassi is ready to say goodbye to the tennis world.

is proud of that achievement.

"Winning in Paris was the moment than to the biggest in my career because of what it entailed," he said.

"I'd suffered failure to fall in the world, it entailed a lot of hard work to climb the mountain.

"From that point on, the sun was a-beam."

And what a beam it turned out to be, as Agassi continued his life just as effectively as he had done his new years.

He won three Australian Opens out of four from 2000, played what are still considered to be all time tennis classics against Pat Rafter in the Wimbledon 2001 semi-finals and against old foe and friend Sampras in the 2001 and 2002 US Opens.

His 2001 marriage to women's tennis legend Steffi Graf had resulted in the birth of two children and senior citizen Agassi comfortably took on the role of family man.

But the years of pounding it out on the courts had taken their toll and Agassi has found it harder and harder to get himself to tournament fit, needing regular cortisone injections to fight off chronic back pain.

In fact, Agassi has announced that it was all over after the US Open. AFP

Determined Sabal eighth in surf run

NOTHING, NOT EVEN SEISMALE CAPE, choirs and flower boats on William Street, could stop Generalo "Gale" Sabal from running a good race in the 36th Sydney City to Surf Run.

Starting from the second line, Sabal managed to finish 8th place in the 14-kilometer race participated in by 45,000 runners with a time of 41.51 minutes.

The Philippine representative, who entered his first after winning in the 5th C-Lion Hire Mt. Middling Challenge staged by UP Los Baños, put up a good race against the awaited African and three Norwegians to do the country proud.

After a rough start, Sabal put on speed and ran on the other side of the lane to get a better pace to beat the crowd. He even skipped the aid stops as he kept up with the lead pack.

Sabal's participation was backed by Philippine Airlines.

Triple V dumps Media golfers

TRIPLE V GOLFERS BOOTED MEDIA AMIN' Tuesday in the Triple 9 Media Golf Classic and went on to capture the Sik Tito Ishaque Memorial Cup with their third straight victory.

The 54th season of the Black Wash Golf and Country Club provided the arena for the 39-hole tournament that brought Triple V's total wins to the previous two years. Thus, the winners have captured the last three editions of the season golf classic by a total of 60 strokes. The score was 389 for Triple V and 7.91 for Media.

Gerry Dimalla led Triple V's onslaught with a net 63 on a gross 78 on the 6,340-yard par-72 layout. Paul Marcelo backed the top gun with a 67 and Bart Pascua followed with a 68.

The best the marksmen could do was the pair of Mr. of Ernie Gonzales and Jong Serano of the tournament.

This was the same total posted by Triple V's Danny Ritaro, Jonik Martinez, Bulli Gozalbo and Virgil Villaviciencio. Rounding up the top 10 scorers of Triple V were Bobby Gozalbo (76), Art Lacanilao (77), and Lauro Cruz (78).

Gonzales edged out Serano in the count-back to win the overall championship for Mr. dis while Arceo settled for the Chief A title. Lito Tavajon and Anthony Sanny were second and third in the class with identical 39s. Jun Nonato took Medal's Class B with 75, beating Roy Hilario (76) and Emilio Perez (77). Class C was won by Teddyvic Melendez with a 70 with Carrie Sia Sena taking second with a 73.

Milo unveils Little Olympics

YOUNG ATHLETES WILL TAKE CENter stage when the Manila leg of the 2006 Milo Little Olympics gets under way on Sept. 2-3 and Sept. 9-10 at the Muntinlupa Sports Park.

Elementary and high school students from public and private schools will vie for top honors in athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, rajah chess, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

Competition in the provincial legs will be staged in the Ormoc Kanlaon Sports and Civic Center in Pangasinan (Luzon), the Cebu Sports Complex in Cebu City (Visayas) and the Iloilo Convention Center in Cagayan de Oro City (Mindanao).

"We're proud that we remain true to our mission of being an effective partner in building future champions," said Nestlé AW and Milo customer marketing manager Michelle Cole-Ricardo.

"Thanks to the trust and support of the parents and most importantly, the passion of their children, the Milo Little Olympics continues to be a success year after year."

The 10th Little Olympics was launched in 1998. With its successful staging, the event was also held in Cebu City in 1998, Cagayan de Oro in 1997 and Laguna, Pangasinan, in 1996.

The event also provides an opportunity to schools that do not have affiliations with sports associations such as the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and other tournaments in Visayas and Mindanao.

"We at Milo are heartened that parents and their kids continue to look to us as a trusted partner in helping them realize their sports ambitions," added Milo sports events executive Joe Goi-ong.

Special Edition hot Lakambini race bet

By Mucog R. Castillo

TRIPLE CROWN LEG WINNERS SPECIAL EDItion bets said on the possibilities pick against nine other three-year-old fillies in the Philracom-sponsored PI million "Lakambini" Stakes today at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Stronger, Manolito Duquin handles the bay daughter of Conquistador Cup of Gold Edition in the back-breaking 1,800-meter race that offers P600,000 to the champion.

Post time is 5:25 p.m. and though favored, it certainly does not look to be a walk in the park for many Special Edition.

Fellow Triple Crown veterans Jet Runner, Tiger in Action and Twelve to Master are also entered together with Rebecca's Magic, Floral Bronze, speedball Miss Monique, Brookstone Class and Private Equestrian Club Proud and Emerald of Silkwood.

Duquin will be piloting Special Edition for only the second time, and the hard-driving jockey actually showed everyone a new facet in his mount's game after a win in a race victory in a nine-up race two weeks ago.

Jet Runner, who was runner-up when Special Edition won the JV Ongpin Cup in June, comes in at the short draws under Jessie B. Guce.

Jet Runner, Raymund Puyat's entry, will also be coming off an impressive come-from-behind victory last Aug. 12.

Ferdinand Raquel mates Tiger in Action, while John Hosting pilots Rebecca's Magic.

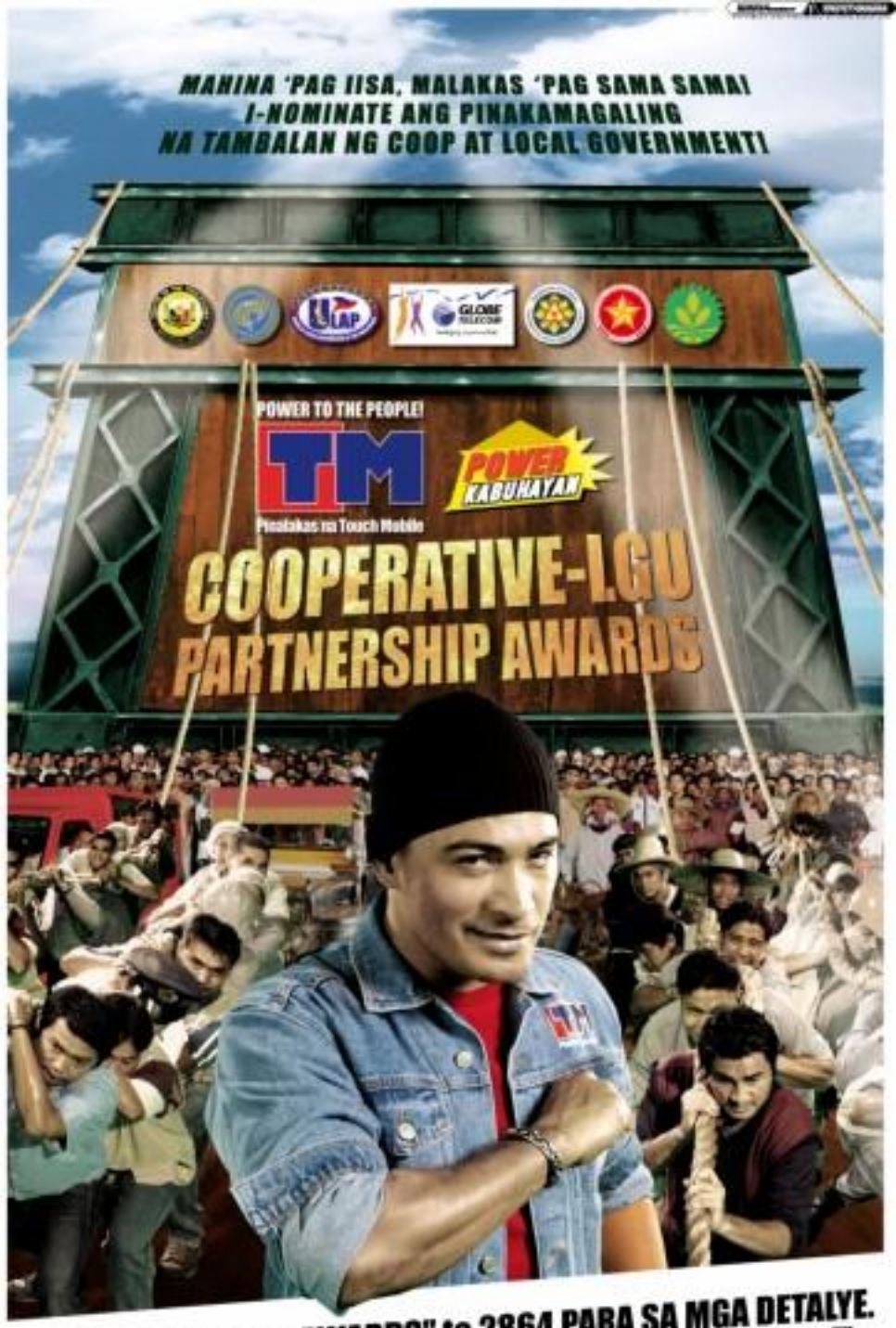
Cash Money and Sound of Silence are coupled entries who will try to keep the Lakambini championship in three stables after Dave Hayes' compatriots bagged last year.

Antonio Alcaid, Jr. rides Cash Money, while Louie O. Balboa rides Sound of Silence, and both could find the race to their liking being cooled for their strong finishing kicks.

Jonathan B. Hernandez, voted as the top jockey last year, will pilot Rainbow Class, while Pat Fernandez handles Starchild in Haven carrying the lightest handicap weight of 52 kilos.

Second place will still be worth P225,000, third P125,000 and fourth P50,000. The breeder of the winning horse gets home with P662,000.

GRAPE CONTEST: Officials from United States Department of Agriculture and California Table Grape Commission signed an agreement with Synergy Asia to organize the 3rd Grapesquadre Culinary Treasure Hunt. The race will require teams to go through a series of physical challenges in and around the Eastwood City Complex on September 16. Signing the agreement were Susan Day, vice president, California Table Grape Commission; Dennis Wolcott, director, Agricultural Trade Office, US Embassy; and Mandy Sarucho, AP representative, California Table Grape Commission



Text "COOP<space>AWARDS" to 2864 PARA SA MGA DETALYE.

Deadline ng nominasyon sa September 30, 2006. Handog ng Philippine Senate, UP ULAP, Globe BridgeCom, CDA, PUP, Land Bank of Synergism, TM!

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Nomination forms are available at Land Bank Development Assistance Centers, CDA Extension Offices and at the following websites:

www.landbank.com www.senate.gov.ph www.up-ncpag.org www.synergism.org

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IN THIS ISSUE

Frames rise from the ashes /B4

'UN' village rises in coastal town

Foreigners find paradise in Bobon, Northern Samar

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

BOBON, NORTHERN Samar—Foreigners are slowly making a small coastal village in this town their second home.

These days, it will not be a surprise to find nationals from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, England, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Holland, Ireland, China, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Canada and the United States living or vacationing in Dancalan, according to 56-year-old Chris Birch, a Birmingham married to a Filipina.

A former reporter of Philippine Footloose, Chris and his young wife Maria Teresa "Tess" Fadlan Birch bought and developed a beachfront property in Dancalan and built residential buildings that they sell or lease to foreigners.

Tess, who is in her 20s, also serves as unit manager at a luxury beach resort in the area that caters mainly to foreigners.

"We started with one native house and people liked the style. So far, we've constructed 10 different houses (in our residential resort). Eight of them made of native materials while two others were made of concrete materials," Chris says.

Facing the Pacific Ocean, the resort boasts of unpolluted air, a clean environment, a kilometer long crescent-shaped golden sand beach, and tropical palms and other vegetation.

Chris also noted that the resort is just 2 km from the town proper of Bobon, a fifth class municipality and 10 km from Catarman, the capital town of Northern Samar. This means that his clients could easily get there from and other supplies from these places.

Catarman, which has an airport, is just a 1-hr-minute land travel away, while most places in the province could be reached through a concrete highway.

Chris says their plan is near some island towns with natural wonders waiting to be explored, such as the rock formations in Biri, the beautiful white sand beaches of San Antonio and the waterfalls of Capul.

If these were not enough for sun lovers and adventure seekers, they can also explore the entire Samar island, the country's third largest, which has a 200,000-ha Samar Island Natural Park in the mainland, he adds.

Australian Harry Sanderson, 63, has started living in Chris's place just last March but he already has many tales to tell about the fabulous places he'd been to in Northern Samar.

"In Northern Samar we have beautiful islands, we have the corals, we have the waterfalls and the scenery is spectacular," Sanderson says in an interview.

He discloses that since he arrived here he had bounced weeks diving and had met friends who took him to the reefs just a kilometer away from Batangay Dancalan.

The week, he says, are comparable to the most hectic beef in his native Australia.

Harry recalls that the first time he came to Samar was when he accompanied a friend who was to get married in northern Samar. It was during that wedding that he met his future wife, who hails from San Jose town in Northern Samar. Months later she brought him to San Jose, which is some 30 kilometers from Bobon town.

ONE of the few concrete houses being built for a foreigner in the beachfront of Batangay Dancalan, Bobon, Northern Samar. (VSL)

SUNRISE in a beach resort in Bobon, Northern Samar. (VSL)

"I fell in love with this place. I already retired in Australia so I came here because I want to live here," he said, adding that he has been to the island towns nearby and even in the ancient town of Catubig, which is 79 kilometers away.

Sanderson says he prefers the simple country life, which is now down to earth. "I'm not a city boy. I'm a country boy. I don't like commercialism."

Sanderson's plans in the area is easy to spot. It has a flagpole in front of the house. The huge flag serves to remind him that despite his love and praises for his new-found place, he is still from Down Under.

Equally amazing is the story of Jan Hanssian who decided that instead of staying in Hawaii and enjoying the the sun, sea and salt there, he would permanently retire to Northern Samar after his retirement in a couple of years.

Henry Adam "Hank" Cottis, 68, who hails from Hawaii, Hawaii, says he met Chris on the Internet and when he came to Northern Samar and Chris showed him the property, he immediately fell in love with the place.

"Eventually I will live here. I have a fiancée in Davao City and

UNVOLUME/B2

THE WEEKEND address of the moneyed of the '90s

Still for rich, but serving new needs

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WILLY OCEIN OF BELLE SHORE Corp. has always been drawn to Tagaytay.

"I had happy times in Tagaytay. I would bring my class there during college," he says.

Paying close attention to what SM founder Henry Sy told him that Tagaytay was going to be the next hot and recreation site of Manila residents, Ocier went on a land shopping spree in the late '80s with money borrowed from his father.

Armed with over 100 hectares of land, Ocier went to Sy to ask him for a partnership to develop the property. Sadly, recently the talipot died on.

Ocier sought another partner—Jumper Trade and Industry Secretary Roberto S. Ongpin, who after taking a hefty equity slot over the property agreed to help Ocier develop the property.

Thus was created Tagaytay Highlands—the weekend address of the rich in the '90s.

In a controversial development seven years ago, the relationship between Ocier and Ongpin turned sour and Henry Sy is now the Ocier's partner and the biggest shareholder in Bello Industrial Realty.

Ocier says Highlands is at a transition to the Chinese because it has natural and water—surrounded resorts that are good in fung shui.

But the profile of Highlands' buyers has been growing. Emerging markets include the senior citizens group composed of those who have made good money and can afford a more leisurely lifestyle but still do occasional work.

Then there is also the affluent Filipino professionals abroad who would like to retire or buy a second home in an area like Tagaytay.

And the up and coming entrepreneurs and businessmen who can afford weekend homes.

Bella Rosario '97 for Marketing Belinda Herrera says Filipino-Americans, especially, are their target market these days. She says many are already looking at Highlands as their retirement home.

"Many are only 35 to 40 years old who are forced to retire early in the US but get pensions so they can afford to get homes in different countries," she says.

Ocier admits there is a huge market in the overseas market especially in the United States.

"If there are eight million Filipinos abroad, and about three million are here in the US. Just get 10 percent of that in the high-end market and you have a 200,000 market base."

Ocier says as early as the '90s, he already had an "active retirees strategy" in mind when he developed Highlands.

"Our projects are initially designed for local retirees," he adds.

Active retirees are those who are no longer working full time, who may have passed on the reins of their businesses to their children or relatives but

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WILLY Ocier with Henry Sy

People, Events & Products

Editor Arlen Espinosa

US CDC urges new cervical cancer vaccine for females

WHITEHOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY: Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) announced recently that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (Acip) of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) voted unanimously to recommend that females 11 to 26 years old be inoculated with quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) recombinant vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous and low-grade lesions, and genital warts caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18.

The Committee recommended that the vaccine developed by MSD be administered in 11- and 12-year old females and in those aged 13 to 26 who have not previously been vaccinated, and that one- and 10-year old females can be vaccinated at the discretion of their physicians. The Acip said that Pap and HIV screening prior to vaccination are not necessary. It also recommended that females can receive the vaccine, called Gardasil, regardless of whether they have or previously had an abnormal Pap test, a positive HPV test, or genital warts.

On June 8, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Gardasil, the only vaccine available for the prevention of HPV types 16- and 18-related cervical cancer, for use in girls and women ages nine to 26 years. Gardasil is ready-to-use, three-dose, intramuscular vaccine. The FDA approved the MSD vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer, cervical cancer precursors (cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) 2/3 and adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS)); vulvar pre-cancers (vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN) 2/3); and vaginal pre-cancers (vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia (VaIN) 2/3) caused by HPV types 16 and 18. The vaccine is also approved for the prevention of genital warts and low-grade cervical lesions (CIN 1) caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18. In the United States, approximately 10,000 women are diagnosed each year with cervical cancer and there are an average of 30 women die each day from the disease.

"MSD is pleased that the Acip has endorsed the use of Gardasil to protect adolescent girls and young women from the potentially serious consequences of HPV infection," said Dr. Mark Feinberg, vice president of policy, public health and medical affairs for Merck Vaccines. "Gardasil was specifically designed to reduce the incidence [NPC] precancerous lesions caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18, and this recommendation from the ACIP will help to ensure that this vaccine can do just that for many girls and young women."

During the meeting, the ACIP also voted to add Gardasil to the CDC's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Since 1994, the VFC program has provided vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured and Native American. After the recommendation is implemented, Gardasil will be included in the VFC program.

11TH NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS CONGRESS VENUE IS INTERCON

Hotel Intercontinental Manila is the official hotel-venue of the 11th National Public Relations Congress slated on Sept. 27 to 30. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), the Congress calls this theme "MANDAMA". Charting the course in a new media age." Shown during the agreement signing between PRSP and Hotel Intercontinental Manila are (standing from left) Joel D. Lavarez, Manila Water Company's corporate communications director; PRSP congress marketing director; Hilton Hotel de Sur Inc. APO, Fuji Circle Communications and PRSP president. Malou Mangahas Espinosa; ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and PR and 11th PR Congress chair, Carmela Bonoan-go; Hotel Intercontinental Manila director of sales and marketing, Dutch Raquel; CBM Network Inc., head for corporate communications and PR Congress co-organizers director and Cristina Pagdanganan. Bong Inquiman, Oriental Manila catering and banquet manager.

Product Files

Sony introduces the 'Ultimate TV'

SONY PHILIPPINES IS SETTING ITS sights on the future and launches the Bravia S4000 (below 8-inch) Full-Flat Active Matrix Display, production Selection, which takes pride in delivering higher than high-definition picture resolution on its two image panel screens. Driven by Sony's newly developed S-DAC quantization, Bravia Engine PRO signal processor, and Motionflow 240 technologies, the S4000/S3000 and KD-40XS3000 promise to be nothing short of being the ultimate TV, features from being powerful media with a higher Electrolyte definition luster, the Bravia S4000 entertainment platform makes the viewing experience of its power consumption of only 225W, which is lower than standard 40INW of the 32" plasma, and its digital audio lamp, which ensures a lifetime of picture-perfect TV experience. For inquiries on the new Bravia S4000 products, Sony Center Beach walk Sony's Customers Contact Center at (632) 633-7000 or 893-1400/1000, or e-mail info.sph@sony.com.ph. The KD-40XS4000 and KD-40XS3000 are available in Sony Showcase, Digital Entertainment Plazas, and authorized Sony dealers nationwide.

Suit up for the XDA Atom Exec

IO, THE LEADING BRAND IN PDA PHONES WE'L comes a new addition to its roster of the increasingly popular Atom Exec phones, the XDA Atom Exec. These smart business unit just became smarter—and faster. Powering on the powerful Intel 520MHz, with a capacity of 128MB are loaded memory. Slim is precisely the kind of assistance you need to get more playing done. Exactly the kind of assistance you'll find in the Atom Exec detail. The Kid Atom Exec guarantees you want not have to endure a model of play, ever again.

Bandra in a capsule

RESEARCH STUDIES CONDUCTED BY JAPAN'S Chiba Pharmaceutical University and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization has confirm formula show that Bandra can be made into orange Slim. It is known for body lower. Slimal made Slims, all of the health benefits of Bandra is now in a capsule. Slimon contains 100 mg of Bandra. Take 1-4 daily, not only to control blood sugar but also to help in weight gain. Available at all Mercury drugstores and other leading drugstore nationwide.

Photolane opens new branch

PHOTOLANE RECENTLY OPENED its new branch at Northtrust 100 Mindo Estate, Quezon City. Located beside Lawson to conveniently located at the ground floor right across the main mall in accordance with Photolane's objective to offer the best photo services without compromising quality, the newly opened branch showcases top of the line digital printing machinery and the finest photographic equipment and accessories. Photolane services range from one-hour development to passport photos to the latest digital cameras and accessories.

Nike Rockstar Workout at Fitness First

AND IN THE GUIDESTOCK THE WHOLE TWIN SHINE styles already introduced - Nike Rockstar Hip Hop and Nike Rockstar Dot, at Ladies Rendezvous dance workout. Fitness First now offers Nike Rockstar Hip-hop workout. The dance workout that will make the dance styles seen on movies coming out of Delta, the largest film industry in the world. Fitness First offers its Nike Rockstar Workout. Hollywood hot-shots hosted by Ruben Gonzales, Mitch Gibb, Adrienne, Karl Bordeos, MSC Mikaili Tradewell City, Rubenwen Bistro Band, Ayala Center Cebu Cebu, Manila, Ilonggo Fort Fair at NBB. Plaza and its latest branch at SM South Mall, Las Piñas. Fitness First's Nike Rockstar Workout series will also be offered when its 18th branch opens later this year at SM North Edsa's The Block.

Super Heroinda Meals at Super Bowl

THIS AUGUST, MANOK SUPER SHINE, OR ONE of Indonesia's top-selling and affordable Super Mie Instant Noodles. For only P180 (inclusive of VAT, redemption of 60 percent service charge), indulge in any of their three-month-watering gourmet combos: Batch of Super Bowl of Chicken Super Mie Noodle Soup, Batch of Super Bowl of Chicken Super Mie Noodle Soup, Batch of Super Bowl of Chicken Super Mie Noodle Soup,

'UN' village ...

From page B1

are have a baby who's 14 days old. We're gonna make a family here," Hank tells the investor in an interview.

What he liked most of the place, he says, was its natural beauty and the beautiful people as well as the "lack of overpopulation."

Hank says he was used to seeing Filipinos because of the large Filipino population in Kuwait.

"I even eat bagoong (anchovies) - but (at a) Hennessy (dark rum) I can't handle," he says, adding that his favorite food sold him in just he is not Filipino if he doesn't eat (sisig).

"So, I'm gonna do it (eat balut)," he laughs, "maybe with Hennessy."

Pulitha Gurlachandra, a trader originally from Sri Lanka but who spent most of his life in the United Kingdom, has only been in Southern Luzon for four days when interviewed by the business.

Invited by Chris, Pulitha visited Southern Luzon to meet the possibility of having his own place in the province.

"But I like what I've heard about it, the good weather, the good possibility of the future for development and for future prospects," says the self-spoken Pulitha, who is in his 40s.

Even foreigners who were here just for a visit did not remember Davis.' He's the Duchess of Northwest Luzon, like David William Alexander Rowell, a 24-year-old native of Scotland, and Chris Campbell, 23, who hails from southwest England. Both were staying in a beach house owned by a woman from the United Kingdom.

"It's really a nice, quiet relaxing place and it's not crowded here," the young Chris says, referring to the province.

David, on the other hand, says the people here seem "very, very hospitable" and that he had been to many "nice" places in Capiz, San Fernando, Bicol and Lucena towns as well as the city, but none is like Davis.

Olympian Power Games '92" Alexander, 66, has been coming here since last year. "This is my fourth trip to the Philippines," he says, adding that he has been traveling in a hotel during his brief visits here to Northern Luzon.

Pierre couldn't seem to forget his island hopping trips to Cagbalete and other nearby places like San Antonio. "Capul is a beautiful place inhabited by nice people," he avers.

Chris Beth says he was amazed that Northern Luzon still has not only those in middle but even those in their 80s. To inform that he, too, is still fascinated by the different places in the province.

Chris first arrived here in 2002, when his former partner in a furniture export firm in Manila, who was from this town, invited him to spend the Holy Week to Subic. A few months later, he said he still bought a beachfront property here.

"It (the place here) we decided to invite other foreigners ... environment-friendly nice foreigners - to share this place with us," he says.

In the Chris says, they have already built 10 homes in the area and have hired some 40 people in the neighborhood for the cleaning, carpentry and maintenance works. "We have 200 more to construct in the next 10 months," he adds.

Chris believed that more foreigners would be coming here in the years to come. "We will try to promote this (place) as a retirement haven-a fresh, clean environment," he says.

Still for rich...

From page B1

are still doing consultancies or have remained directors of several companies.

On the same entrepreneurs Ocier describes them as those who "manage their time and work and they have their family in mind."

To meet the different needs of its new market, Belle is developing two projects for this year.

A new subdivision adjacent to The Parks at Sanctuga Hills, comprising approximately 287 lots on 19 hectares of gently land area, is slated to be launched in October or January. Like The Parks, The Meadows will follow a design theme based on American regional influences. The firm is set to conclude this project primarily in its Highlands and Highlands shareholders in April 2006.

The expansion of Plantation Hills lines has developers, adding more than 200 and 24 hectares in gross land area to the total of 800 lots and 69 hectares for the existing four phases.

Belle and Highlands Pointe have a master plan that envisions the development of more than 3,700 hectares of land into an integrated residential and leisure community. The town will consist of Tagaytay City to the foothills of Talisay and Tanauan, Batangas, and will lap the shores of Taal Lake in Tanauan and Balete, Batangas. Planning and design work started in 2005 for projects that are planned for launch beyond 2006.

A new residential subdivision that will be developed along the south driveway, or the upcoming second 18-hole golf course, of the Tagaytay Midlands golf club.

This subdivision will have superb views of Taal Lake, and a pleasant and picturesque location beside Tagaytay Midlands golf course fairways.

A health and wellness center that will cater to both medical and wellness procedures.

HERRERA

European cosmetic chain lands in Manila

LUISA MY PERFECT BRAND

Marionnaud (not yet to) starts its Asian expansion by going to the Philippines first. With its fashion forward attitude and marked potential in terms of industry expansion, the brand views the country as the next frontier in the business of beauty.

Marionnaud aims to be the brand conscious consumer's top destination for beauty retail therapy. The largest luxury cosmetics and perfumery chain in Europe, with 1,220 outlets in 14 countries that include Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Monaco and of course France, is opening its first store in Asia in Asia's largest mall, the SM Mall of Asia.

The move coincides with A.S. Watson's (HPA) realignment of its existing Marionnaud by leveraging its brands and retail network and by integrating Marionnaud into its international portfolio. A.S. Watson, the retail and manufacturing division of Hong Kong-based conglomerate conglomerate Hutchinson Whampoa Limited (Hutchison) is a 3,100 outlets more in the first quarter of 2005, upping its worldwide health and beauty store number to over 7,000 making it the largest retail company in the sector.

Its Asia, A.S. Watson's health and beauty retail operates under the brand name of Watsons Your Personal Care Store, which has over 1,400 outlets in 10 markets including the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and Indonesia.

KPW Group Managing Director Ian Hale said: "We are excited to introduce the unique Marionnaud concept of beauty to the Philippines. It is a venture that we hope will pave the way for further the chain's development throughout Asia. The brand is known to everyone in Europe, and is symbolic of the beauty inspirational experiences that clients are sure to get each time they enter a Marionnaud store."

A.S. WATSON acquired the French perfumery last year

Credited for changing the face of traditional French perfumery, Marionnaud started life over time to a family business more by 1965, originally formed in Montpellier, France. Marionnaud had his first European beauty center in a split-level store with one floor dedicated to perfume and cosmetics and another to a beauty salon. From those inconspicuous beginnings, Marionnaud grew into a pan-European retailer with a truly innovative concept. Access to luxury in a privileged environment.

The changes as well as development of the brand continued with the opening of Marionnaud's own, mixture of 50 perfumeries in France, and the store who purchased the perfumery chain in 1999 and adopted its well-known name. Building on Marionnaud's concept, Perfumes split the store into two different categories, fashion-related boutiques that had selective distribution and liquors, the larger perfumeries that also carried health and beauty products.

A succession of acquisitions - Kiehrs, Rochedi, Yves Rocher, Clubé, among others, and a multitude of small independent perfumeries boosted its results. Thus, Marionnaud purchased the Italian chain Profumerie (1991 stores), and a network of 25 stores in Tuscany, Italy. The group continued to open more stores, particularly the flagship shop in Champs-Elysées. The luxury brand has now accumulated nine million loyalty cards members across Europe.

Marionnaud is set to open its one luxury retail store here in the country by September of 2006. Located at the Mall of Asia, the outlet is the brand's first store in the region. Yesterday, Chris, SM Inc.'s president said, "SM is very pleased to have Europe's premium luxury chain in the Mall of Asia. Marionnaud indeed fits the performance of the voucher segment we cater to, and it seems to become a valuable addition to the roster of brands housed in the premiere destination mall in the Asia-pacific region."

Going the extra mile with patient relations officers

WHEN THE Y2K CAME IN, many industries took the road towards modernization. From service to products to customer, decision makers have taken significant note of the new demands of people. Smiling ways and means to quickly respond as changes in lifestyles and expectations to ensure customer satisfaction and maximized patronage.

The call center for example, has offered unbridled access to people all over the globe in a myriad of services.

Here in only a few of the local (800)-hour call centers, even as logically they should have one each. Health care services after all should be within reach. HMOs should seriously allow round-the-clock customer service assistance since it can likewise be become a lifeline in their customers.

In line with InteliCare's commitment to be responsive, it established its very own call center. But they call it the In House Customer Service Department to underscore the fact that they are not an outsourcing firm but a customer service department. It is accessible 24/7, staffed by people equipped not just technologically, but mentally and emotionally as well to handle different types of calls.

Members can easily dial the Customer Service Number (632) 894-22061 day or night for any problems, queries or assistance for medical emergencies.

The in-house customer service department is manned by medical professionals who are capable, and while most other HMO companies would have the Liaison Officer, InteliCare has Patient Relations Officers or PROs.

InteliCare's PROs take into account that patients in need of medical care are very vulnerable emotional conditions.

Of all the country's HMOs, InteliCare has the widest network of affiliated medical providers. It boasts of a network of more than 500 accredited hospitals and clinics and over 12,000 affiliated medical practitioners in their specific fields of medical and surgical practice and professionals nationwide.

InteliCare only chooses specialists to service its medical clientele.

HMO wants to be different with PROs who can empathize with patients' needs.

InteliCare's medical director is Ricardo L. Jocson, M.D., a former Head of the Department of General Surgery at The Medical City and now the Director of Medical Arts Tower, Inc.

Dr. is a Fellow at the Philippine College of Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, the Philippine Society of General Surgeons, Philippine Society of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons and an Associate Member of the Philippine Society of Digestive Surgeons.

For more information about InteliCare and their products, you can call their 24-hour Customer Service Number (632) 894-3366 or visit their website at www.inteliCare.com.ph.

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OPPORTUNITIES

How to start a business

THE PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER (PTTC) OF THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites prospective entrepreneurs to a "Seminar on How to Start a Business" on Sept. 7, 2006 at the seminar room A, 2nd floor of the PTTC Bldg., Gen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The seminar aims to prepare the participants in building up their capabilities in business. Topics are: Self-Analysis on Entrepreneurial Capability, Personal Skills Experience, Finding a Niche, Market Analysis, Planning your Start-up, Your Business and the Law, Protecting your business, Business Premises and Location, Merchandise and Business Records.

Learn basic MS Word

LEARN to encode, format and print a document using MS Word. Explore MS Word applications such as spell check, thesaurus and other wizards with ease.

The PTTC will conduct a "Seminar on Basic MS Word" on Sept. 5, 2006 at the seminar room D, second floor of PTTC Building at Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

PTTC also offers other courses on information and communications technology. These are MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, Documentcenter MS, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Pagemaker, Flash and Macromedia Fireworks.

Briefing on Kaizen philosophy

KAIZEN is a Japanese term that means improvement. It is philosophy is to focus on small and gradual improvements over a long period of time. More than quality, kaizen is concerned on waste elimination, just-in-time delivery and standardized work.

The PTTC will conduct a "Briefing on the Kaizen Philosophy" on Sept. 5, 2006 at seminar room E, second floor of the PTTC Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Color merchandising talk set

Colors have a strong psychological effect on the lives of people. They reflect different types of personalities and moods depending on the selection of hue, tones or intensity. In the work environments such as shops, and offices, colors are proven to be seemingly valuable in increasing the efficiency and morale of employees.

For garment companies, color in the merchandising process is the keys to ensuring the effective planning and controlling of merchandise assortment. Colors ideal location and color-quality evaluation guarantee customer satisfaction, assortment diversity and quality improvement.

The PTTC of the Department of Trade and Industry will conduct the "Seminar on Color Merchandising" on Sept. 5, 2006 at the seminar room B, second floor of the PTTC Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The seminar will discuss the concept of color proximities, the applications of colors to relay impact on garments and the approach of designers in selecting colors for design execution. It will cover topics on color for merchandising, color theory, colors in production and selling colors.

For inquiries and reservations on the above seminars and talks, call 8341599-89 local 3013 and 4213-7137 or fax at No. 8341340.

Learn soap-making

IN LINE with the government's objective to give jobs and livelihoods for those who would like to venture into the soap-making business, the Cebilec Finance Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making to be held at the UMA Alumni Center, Hugayanyay Avenue, Tiaman St., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City on Sept. 2, literally from 12 n.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing. Participants will get to experience on how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand wash soap, liquid all-purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, watermelon, cucumber, oatmeal etc.) powder soap, laundry softener, car shampoo, bonus courses are liquid bleach, tile and bowl cleaner and how to process virgin coconut oil for soap. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided. For questions, call 932-69-28; 426-76-26; 952-29-34; 921-29-68 and 913-83-51.

Frames rise from the ashes

WHEN MC IGNATIUS GILOY-ed in 1991, Jenny Dai was a medical student and owner of a ceramics factory in Pasay, Pampanga. The tragedy forced Dai to assess his mission in life. He asked himself whether he would become different as a doctor or as an entrepreneur.

Dai realized that he could help not only himself and his family but also his fellow Pampangueños by rebuilding his business. Shortly after moving to Angeles City, Dai thought long and hard how to make the Pinatubo tragedy work for him and his plan. The answer lay in the lahar or volcanic debris that covered the province and devastated many homes, landmarks and commercial establishments.

Dai thought of making picture frames from lahar. Hotel Fronté in Cebu was born in 1993, making the stone-based volcanic debris a popular material for divers not only in the Philippines but also in other countries.

Facial products carefully hand-crafted divine from volcanic ash. Dai proudly says the materials used by each of the 300 South Korean nationals and Hongkongnese who go an hour or 90 minutes to get to Fronté are high as P7,000.

The pricing range exhibits people from all economic strata of society to buy and enjoy Jenny Dai's products.

Dai's story, now the subject matter of books, began in 1993 when the firm participated in a Hong Kong trade fair with the backing of Ms. Lily Villafuerte, then an undersecretary for the Department of Trade and Industry, and Mimi Galura, then a businesswoman's assistant secretary.

From Hong Kong, Dai and Fronté took on the US and Europe.

The company has won a number of awards, including the 25th Jacob K. Javits Export Gold Star Award given in France in 1999; the 19th Int'l Quality Summit Award, Historical Category in New York; the 27th Int'l Harrison Star Award in Quality given in Geneva, Switzerland.

GOLDEN Qui receives Int'l Quality Award in Geneva, Switzerland

"You have to think of ways to rise above tragedy," says the 36-year-old entrepreneur.

From a start-up capital of just P18,000 in 1992, Fronté now has 55 regular employees, with about 30 more contracted during peak seasons. Most of them are artisans tasked to come up with new designs. Dai has learned to delegate so that he would have time for other aspects of the business, including marketing and promotions.

Dai dreams of setting up shops in New York and Paris. "Culture the artist is." He may not have realized that dream, but his homes and doors are available and bought in showrooms all over the world. "In 15 European countries, including the US," he states.

Hotel Fronté is Dai's icon of the participants in Wedding Expo Philippines, at the PICC Forum, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard on Sept. 2-3. For queries, call 551-9782 to 83 or 832-9794.

Wife's persistence leads to successful retail venture

DIAMARI CORP. IS NOT KNOWN all over the country but in Mindanao it is as name that is synonymous with motorcycles and consumer electronics.

The story of Diamark Corp. started with a small store in Jagna, Bohol, in 1980 named Diamarie. It was then a family owned business. Managed by Gilbert Jr., Diamarie had branches in the Visayas areas. In 1988, Fe suggested to her husband to raise their own business since her brothers and sisters had flushed their studies. Fe felt that it was time to extend to their own growing family and leave the management of Diamarie to his siblings.

The Ilos moved to Butuan City—a calculated move to avoid competition between the growing metropolis—Davao, and the thriving Diamark Corp. It proved to be a wise decision. Butuan City in 1988 was the center of a booming lumber industry and a business hub in the Caraga region. From Butuan City, Fe opened a branch in Cagayan de Oro City in 1991 and put the head office there. It was only in 1991 that Gilbert gave up Diamarie and resumed full time for Diamark.

Diamark Corp. has gained a fair share of the appliance business, despite the stiff competition from other dealers because of the couple's unique management style. Transparency and honesty in dealing with customers is of paramount importance. In the early years, all the Diamark stores carried well-known brands as Panasonic, Sony and LG Gillin. They were not keen on advertising, and their sales were gained through word-of-mouth referrals and customers.

Loyalty and hard work are the sure qualities the couple looks for in their employees. In fact, almost all managers in all their branches come from their own first branch in Cagayan de Oro, the Diamark Cogon branch. They consider these employees as part of their family to the extent that they even lend him their personal lives and call them for one-on-one talks when the need arises.

As the business environment changed in Mindanao, the couple started getting their two sons, Marvin and Mark, more responsibilities in the business.

Fe realizes that establishing the business and seeing it grow, being able to connect not only dealers, and being able to make a very significant difference in the quality of life of their more than 200 employees are among her major accomplishments in life.

The Ilo couple has more time to travel now but they have also used this as time to keep abreast with the latest trends and designs in the market. These now include hotel and theme in partnership with Samsung. They are that fostering establishment a foothold in different markets because of their technology and in-

Fe and Gilbert Ilo

stores. Cagayan de Oro has proven to be a good market to high-end products and new technology.

Today, the Ilos are working on a dream: to establish a scholarship fund for the children of employees who have worked with them and have been loyal all these years. They hope to be able to do this soon.

There are 28 branches in Mindanao... 11 of these branches are outlets for motorcycles and 15 are appliance stores. Gilbert's brother's have also established their own businesses on the other side of Mindanao.

Charting public relations in the new media age

IS TODAY'S MILLENNIUM IN-terest ripe, anyone on your list on his opinion and puts this off as fact, final issues, however, need real solutions.

Today's PR practitioner faces issues unique to his times. How does one protect one's image despite the proliferation of blogs and alternative publishing avenues? How can one break through from the cacophony of messages and make oneself heard? How can a PR practitioner ensure that his messages are received by his target market?

These questions are a sam-

ple of what the 13th National PR Congress wishes to address. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and with the theme of Mindmap: Charting the Course of PR in a New Media Age, the congress offers a panel of distinguished resource speakers to tackle the most pertinent issues facing the PR industry today.

To discuss branding and how to make your company stand out from the rest, the Congress has invited Chito Asiaperia and Danilo Gozo, to share their experiences on the subject.

Asiaperia spent 22 and a half years in public service. He now heads the Mendoza Foundation Inc.

Danilo Gozo brings to the congress 33 years of PR practice that started back in the days of martial law.

To talk about crisis manage-

ment in the age of instantaneous information, the congress has invited Sagayoc president Cyril del Callar to share his wealth of knowledge.

The 13th National PR congress will be on Sept. 28 & 29, 2006 at the grand ballroom of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

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Books, bookfairs are booming industries

THE PHILIPPINE BOOK INDUSTRY is in a buoyant mood with local publishing houses churning out new titles, book retailers aggressively offering a wide range of book promos, and an upcoming internet-based bookfair-that brings them all together to serve the book loving market.

Contrary to earlier predictions that the end for books was near in the era of Internet, and a slew of gadgets and glamour, the global book industry is alive and doing well.

"The books coming out now are not only better in content, but also in production and design quality," affirms Lorie Gardoval, president of the Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP).

Philippine Educational Publishers Association (Depa) president Dominador Buhain said in his industry report, "Publishing Today (Philippines)," that as of December 2004, there are already 104 book publishers in the country, a significant jump from the previous year's 98. In 2005, 1,629 books were produced in the country, based on the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) called by the Philippine National Library.

Gardoval, who bigger and more progressive trade book publisher in the Philippines, has put out over 1,200 titles since it was founded in 1990.

Adarna House, the first and largest Filipino children's book publisher, has produced over 200 original stories that focus on Filipino values, culture, history and experiences. Visual Publishing House Inc., one of the top educational publishers, has produced more than 5,000 textbook titles.

Primexcode Asia, organizer of the Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) for 27 years now, shares its momentous story in the industry.

"When we started the bookfair in 1979, we just had a few booths in a small function room at the Manila Hotel. But the fact that we have hundreds of participants now—from publishers to retailers...attests to the growth and dynamism of the industry. It has become a one-stop shop for sought-after titles, and has also become a launch pad for publishers to showcase their latest titles," observes Inno D. Liwag, Primexcode-Asia president.

MIBF gate statistics count about 30,000 people troop to the bookfair on its five-day run. Over a hundred local and foreign exhibitors showcase books, magazines, periodicals, journals and other educational materials and equipment.

With all things looking up for local book publishers and an unprecedented industry boom on the horizon there every year, Gardoval positively looks forward to the future prospects in the industry. Aurchel Chan, contributor

(The bookfair is on Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 in the World Trade Center, Pasay City. For details, call 893-6661 or 891-0823)

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sea Princess and the boys /C4

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The day Hell bloweth over

A Filipino journalist recounts the ordeal of Katrina survivors

By Anne A. Jamboro
Photos by Matthew Bennett

IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE scenes, Deborah Dalton was saying to herself as Hurricane Katrina edged her way closer to Louisiana late August last year. Born and raised in New Orleans, Dalton had been used to the storms that would roar their way through the city.

Like many residents, she had actually come to believe the city walls were invincible. And, like thousands of its populace, she would live through the horrors that would change the way the world understood hurricanes...and the great American empire.

It was Saturday, Aug. 27, 2005. Katrina's coming was blaring on the news, for Dalton, however, it was a normal workday. Besides, she thought, Katrina just might turn around at hurricane watchtower.fo.or weather upon its heels kill fire in the meantime. Katrina was picking up speed, maintaining winds of 280 km/hr.

Dalton, 44, left home to work the 7 a.m.-7 p.m. shift as a nursing aide of a hospital in Kenner, 22 km from New Orleans. It was her second trip to work. Earlier she was ordered to go home to get food and water. Katrina was a Category 5, and she said her coworkers might have to stay overnight.

Doors to her four-bedroom home were locked; enough food was prepared for Cora, her 2-year-old daughter, who was curled up in warm downstairs. But that day was doomed to be the last she would see of her home, and her grandkye knew the last she would give to Coca.

"We took it lightly. We thought we were going to get the rains and the winds. We haven't really had a bad storm," Dalton recalled in an interview with Inquirer from the World Trade Institute during the people visit to Atlanta, Georgia, nearly two months after Katrina.

At the hospital, she said, the personnel was

TO C2 AND C3

SECOND CHANCE. "The storm was not prepared. I was not prepared. I'm 44 years old. I'm not looking forward to starting over again."

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The day Hell bloweth over

From page 61

worried about how to entertain the patients, some of them on respiratory support. But they had to stay put until given a go-ahead. Still, everyone believed the storm was not coming.

Costly and deadly

They were wrong. Although Katrina weakened to a Category 3 CBS hitched when it entered southeast Louisiana and the Louisiana-Mississippi state line, it would prove to be the costliest and one of the deadliest hurricanes in US history.

On Aug. 29, at around 10 a.m., Dalton was awakened by a violent shake from her room's walls. "Girl, it's now worth the money!" Tonyyou was in front of the TV. The night before, the small cube-sized shaves drawn her spirit.

"I looked like a lake! I thought, 'Oh, my God! Is this New Orleans?' All we could see was water. And then I saw the tip of my house," she said.

Panic broke out. All they had held dear to their hearts were surrounded by the city. For some, the strong urge to go home to be with their loved ones was tempered by the call of duty and even the patients. For others, like Dalton, they had little choice but to stay behind as they sensed threat in the flood.

Over 900 km away from Kenner, Robert Lee Allen, Dalton's husband, was frantically sending text messages to his wife. There were no replies. A long-distance shock shivers for fused for the lives of his new wife and his three children from a previous marriage. He thought they had all perished.

Dalton received the text messages but couldn't send a reply. She had three grown-up children, also from previous marriages. Every minute. Phones and power were down. There was no food. While the city was under stress, everything seemed rare—and precious. She was hungry and dehydrated.

"I'M NOT asking for the government to take care of me. I'm only, I'm healthy. I can work so I'll be fine. I just need an apartment," said Deborah Dalton (r.), husband Herbert Lee Allen, center, and hotel manager Ma Rosie, right, look on.

FLOODWATERS from Hurricane Katrina cover a portion of New Orleans, Louisiana, a day after it passed through the city

On top of that, news of the trembled levee near the hospital took hopes of any of them getting out of the building alive.

Looting and car theft

A couple of days later, however, the water receded. That night there was a day of repairing, a chance to go home at last as helicopters gradually remained quiet, and that was when all Hell broke loose. There were looting, mostly for food and water, although many took the opportunity to steal. The Dalton-Hands were rolled in.

Cars were as valuable as gold. Americans dying to get away—anywhere but New Orleans —knew cars were their only ticket out. People began breaking into cars.

"It was horrible. It was like a war was going on out there. There was shooting. I prayed to my car—you need to start. 'Lucas I need to get out of here,'" Dalton said.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, Dalton left New Orleans.

That same day, Ebbo was driving through Missouri, two states away from Louisiana, to pick up a load. But all he could think of was his wife. And he prayed in desperate "Jesus, please, call me."

Five seconds later he got a beep. "Call your wife, she says she knew you are missed you." Then were reunited two days later. Their children were safe. They had evacuated before Katrina ravaged the city.

Months after Katrina's devastation, Dalton was still trying to survive—homeless and jobless. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema), she said, was not helping her at all simply because she was a homeowner.

"I was a taxpayer. I had a home. I had a car. I worked every day of my life. But for the people that never worked, who are dependent on the system—and just bought a house, an $1,000 bedroom/set, staying at a $900 apartment, because from just issued through the money. I feel sorry for you and have you go." That is not fair," she said.

In a recent report in the Houston Chronicle, Fema had doled out through July this year $6.15 billion in housing assistance to nearly 950,000 household applicants. A total 1,600,000 people were more than 1.7 million households applied, but many were ineligible because they were getting help from insurance claims or were referred to other programs, according to the report.

Down in Houston, Texas, Dalton said a relocated woman, who was homeless prior to the hurricane, was getting all the help from Fema.

"They had facilities that said give them money, give them money," she said. "She bought a $700 purse. One guy just had a gunnery done. Reality hasn't sunk in. Those people think they're going to live off the system."

Dalton was on her own. She couldn't even get her insurance companies to work. An insurance company, in fact, told her car was not her business. Dalton only learned of it when a woman called her asking when she could pick up the car. She wanted her house taken down so she could have some peace of mind but her insurance wouldn't do it. She needed a lawyer to get her insurance to do anything. With no money and no job, she didn't know what to do.

Nightmare and mess

She had also been busy containing her unnerving where she was a freshman nursing student. She was told the school pens under, too, that records were lost, and that she would have to start all over again.

"This is a nightmare. It looks like we have been messed over in this country," she said.

When Dalton's youngest daughter, 19, returned from home, she found the walls molding, the roof inside the house, and bugs everywhere. Coco lay dead on the floor.

"I have been praying all those weeks that somebody might have rescued my dog. My kids thought I was going to go back home, get my small son of my rooms and the dog's going to come running to the door. You cannot just go back to New Orleans and pick up where you left off," Dalton said.

The subconscious of Dalton and Ebbo today is not known. They had promised to stay in touch with the Waverly Hills but so infants, so, where to manage, 900 Main, took them to Occidental last year, but they never did. They left the hotel months after the interview.

The author was a fellow of The World Post Institute in 2005, during which time she did the interviews and research for this story. E-mail her at ajambosa@inquirer.com.ph

Island parish marks fiesta of Our Lady of Peñafrancia

THE FIRST AND ONLY ISLAND PARISH OF Our Lady of Peñafrancia, in Barrio Bulacan, Lagunay, Camarines Sur, will celebrate its second fiesta on Sept. 9. The new mission church was elevated to a parish in 2000 by Naga Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi.

The parish can be reached by motorboat from Cebu. 20 percent of the population are Catholics, and the rest are Aglipayan. Fr Ato Gumpad is the lone parish priest committed to building a prosperous life for his parishioners who are mostly farmers and fishermen.

Right now, Masses are celebrated in a temporary chapel made of nipa and cogon bamboo.

Those who wish to help can write Fr. Ato Gumpad c/o Bishop Jose Rapadas at Immaculate Conception Parish, PO Box 1614, Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City, or call 0919-8438675.

'Ina' in Meare

Devotees of "Ina" (Our Lady of Peñafrancia) in Metro Manila will hold a Traslacion of Mareas at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 7-9, at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Bel Air, Makati. Rosaries will be at 5:30 p.m.

The image of "Ina" will be brought to the church at 2 p.m. by motorcade from the MOL building, 279 Dela Rosa, Salcedo Village, with a brief stopover at Mandaluyong City Hall and the Medical Center.

At 12 noon on Sept. 10, a special Mass will be offered by devotees from Bulusa, Camarines Sur at St. Andrew Parish. At 2 p.m., the Peñafrancia image will be brought to her namesake in the Ayala Bridge where a floral procession will begin toward Cross Bridge.

At 3 p.m., a procession of devotees, mostly women, will bring the image to the Manila Cathedral for a candlelighted Mass.

On Sept. 11, the traveling robes of the Virgin and the Divine Rosary are brought to the cathedral. With bells ringing and people waiting in anticipation, it is a joyous moment. People are assured that Jesus and Mary are truly there to help them.

Lipa gathering

On Sept. 12, Marian devotees from all over the Philippines will gather once more at the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa for the National Day of Prayer, Peñafrancia Carmel version. On the same day in 1948, Our Lady appeared for the first time in Sister Teresing Castillo, a Carmelite postulant.

Asked who she was when she appeared on the second day, Our Lady told Teresing, "I am the Mother, my little one."

Sept. 12, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, has been declared national day of prayer by the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines.

On Sept. 16, 1948 Our Lady told Teresing that a statue be placed where she appeared. On Sept. 26, she declared that she was "Mary Mediatrix of All Graces."

This year, a new Marian apparitions, confirmatory of Mary Mediatrix of All Graces, will be launched. Its founder is Fr. Michele Cocito, chancellor and secretary to the bishop of Tarlac.

Other Marian organizations are invited to join the National Movement for Mary working for the approval and official church recognition of the Lipa apparitions. Fax Fr. Michele at (045) 4822191.

'Sagala'

The coffee-table book, "Sagala: The Queen of the Philippine Festivals", written by the Florendo presents the historical background of the Flores de Mayo and the fiesta's unique practices associated with them—dramatizations with songs and dances, folk influences on liturgies and customs, kaleidoscope of the dormancies and formosas, related festivals of Marinduque and Bandoan—and Marian devotion in the country.

"Sagala" contains vintage photographs and illustrations dating back to the 1900s, complemented by an exclusive line of photographs of contemporary sagalas such as beauty queens, fashion models, entertainment icons, among with distinguished dancers and formosas wearing the best creations of the fashion designers Association of the Philippines.

Book design is by Eduardo Lizarraga and photography by Richard Dyer, with additional photos by Alfred Mendoza and Carmen Jeffrey Florendo.

Filipino volunteer

A long-time volunteer in the church's administrative and ritual activities on many fronts, Dorie Aguas, has been designated to do the Oratory for the centennial celebration on Sept. 9 of St. Victor's Catholic Church. A solemn High Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Roger Mahoney.

Her several years from Dorie accompanies, especially during Lauds, are a great one in the archdiocese of Los Angeles. He says, "If I have brought a soul to church because of my flowers, then I have fulfilled a mission." Incidentally, St. Victor, the first African Pope, initiated the celebration of Easter on Sunday.

Values awareness

In this era of globalization, everyone is on the fast lane, each trying to service physical, mental or emotional pressures. Geraldine Tongson-Dolan is a stress-related consultant on personal growth and management development. She specializes in stress assessments and design of learning and training modules. Text 0917-6546298.

TOBY Estrella, Dimples Sochiocco and Raul Garcellon

PHILDA Alcaldia-Quiroz, Augusto Villanueva and Kongo Takase

Law firm inaugurates new offices

THE OFFICES OF THE GERONAS Sochiocco-Estrella (GSE) Law Firm at the Dealer and Colombos Fountain Rooms of the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City were recently blessed and formally inaugurated.

The firm also paid the event as an opportunity to give thanks for its achievements and garner its ready-to-market.

It treated friends and clients from diverse fields (information technology, telecommunications, manufacturing, realty, construction, energy and mining, media, advertising, and entertainment, among others) to a sumptuous buffet that included roast calf and lechon, accompanied by different wines.

Managing partner Raul G. Geronas expressed his gratitude as he recalled the company's humble beginnings. Highlight of the event was a short audio-visual presentation introducing the firm's lawyers and its vision.

The GSE Law Firm provides a broad and integrated range of services, both domestic and cross-jurisdictional laws, in the fields of corporate, taxation, litigation, labor and immigration laws.

Founding partners Geronas, Ernesto Nicolas Sochiocco and Toby A. Estrella have years of experience as law practitioners.

Other lawyers of the law firm are Rhonda D. Miranda, Cha-lin G. Manuzela, Grace Valdez-Custodio, Joey A. Ramos, Orsi L. Sandoval, Jose T. Adlibg, and Loy Salidato-de Leon.

GSE Law Firm's offices are at Suite 3809 Discovery Center, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Visit www.GSElawfirm.com

PETER Sochiocco, PHS Secretary Arthur Yap, Estrella, Erwin and Annie Macaraig, and Manila Nuang-Lim

JOEY Ramos, Jan Adlibg, Charlie Manuzela, Grace Custodio, Sochiocco, Geronas, Gary Sandoval, Leyda de Leon and Rhonda Miranda

Residences go Indian for 4th anniversary

PRAIRIE PLACE: Residences in Makati celebrated recently its fourth anniversary.

Combining of twin towers, Prairie Place Manila is a posh home for foreign businessmen and executives and their families.

Prairie hosted a party inspired by Bombay Nights, transforming the garden deck into a virtual Hollywood with the walls and ceiling decorated with colorful Indian scarves and tapestry. Exotic Indian restaurant served authentic dishes from the Indian subcontinent.

Prairie Players staff, wearing Indian inspired outfits, welcomed over 150 guests including corporate partners, travel bookers and residents.

Christopher Bong, Prairie's GM, thanked friends and clients and presented a special award and prize to Prairie Player's longest staying guest, Ong Ho Leng.

The following day Prairie Place sponsored cocktails. It also sponsored a special screening of "X-Men 3" for children under the care of Tahay Foundation.

Prairie Serviced Residences are also in Bangkok, Thailand; Glasgow, Scotland; London, England; Paris, France; Seoul, South Korea; Shenzhen, China; and Singapore.

40 poor students get college scholarships

THE EC DE VENECIA FOUNDATION IS sending 40 deserving students from poor families to Ateneo Manila in college.

EC, the youngest daughter of Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina, is a first floor granted three homes in Diamondtan Village in 1994. The De Venecia family set up the foundation in her memory.

Gina de Venecia and her son Christopher, president of the EC de Venecia Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Padilla-nyor Higher Education, a nonprofit organization that helps poor college students, which guaranteed 40 scholarships.

Pathways closes the first scholars.

The MOU was signed at the dorms de Manila University. Present were EC's family and friends. Padilla-nyor was represented by founder Harvey Itoh, acting director Solvin Nubla, and chair and Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres.

Pathways to Higher Education was established in 2002 as a new education development program under the office of the president of Ateneo. It was founded by Itoh, an enterprising young man, who studied Psychology at the university and is now a fellow at the Asian Institute of Management in Building Leadership.

The EC de Venecia Foundation is composed of EC's family and friends. Mina Gina is CEO. EC's niece, Corinna Cruz Evangelista, is also in the foundation while cousin lawyer Trevor Macoda is corporate secretary.

Members of the board of trustees are EC's brother Ige Cruz, cousins Isidel Amphl, JM Nakpil, Carmella Nubla de Venecia, Maria Fredelyn Isa Maria, and Patricia Claire Perez; and best friend Harvey Alumnia.

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SMART 3G: OPPORTUNITIES IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Mr Manuel V Pangilinan enlightens the forum on the power of SMART 3G.

In the recently held forum of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), home to the country's top financial executives, SMART and PLDT Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan shared the forthcoming impact of the third Generation Digital Network or SMART 3G to the financial world, the business community, the home, and ultimately the nation as a whole.

Mr Pangilinan outlined a host of applications and services SMART 3G presently offers its subscribers from video calls, to surfing the worldwide web, to watching television shows, streaming e-mail, playing games, and even viewing real time traffic situations in major highways. Underscoring the role of emerging technologies in driving national progress, Mr Pangilinan said that SMART is focused and working hard to bring the rest of its brands within everybody's reach.

The power and efficiency of SMART 3G was further emphasized through a three video conference demo between Mr Manny Pangilinan, Mr Rony Shaka, SMART's Wireless Consumer Division Head; Mr. Butch Antonio, PLDT Retail Business Head; and Mr. Iolo Carcellar, SMART's Department Head for Key Relations Management Group.

As we ring in a new experience the heights of SMART 3G, Mr Pangilinan remarked a vital point "We are mindful that convergence, and the evolution of new technologies should not be pursued simply for the sake of their elegance in the end of the day convergence isn't about technology as such it is about solutions that add value can use and benefit from... that make everyday life, and the functions of business easier."

SMART TAYO

Making everyday life easier

HOLDING hearts Bryan Prieto and Jeanine Bautista

HANDSOME new photographer Diether Ocampo and Karen Peacock

CHARITABLE royalty Andrea Cudeiro

Fab couple Sigale and Sissi Djamal

JAMAICA WELLNESS Foundation head Dominique Lamay and Carol Lucas of the French Embassy

Let's hear it for the boys

Tessa!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

My son is turning 21, Diether has a charity, and Andrea of Monaco is helping Pinoy street urchins. Look at what these young handsome men can do now that they're of legal age!

AMID THE HOOPLA OVER my 20th Assumption High School homecoming in October, I have been reminiscing about all my milestones from the '80s. It was a decade of seemingly monumental challenges and fulfilling accomplishments, both for our country as well as for me personally.

Motherhood came to me in the '80s. Right in the midst of the decade, I became a single mom to my son, Bryan, who is turning 21 in a couple of weeks. Since I was quite a young mother, Bryan and I developed a non-traditional parent-child relationship...one not based on strict discipline and authority but on love and compassion. Lucky for me, he knows his mom was not a typical parent but acted, almost exclusively, like a friend.

Becoming a mother for the first time is such a joyous experience. My life and priorities changed dramatically. No longer would I just hang with friends or mindlessly kill time. Instead, my days were occupied by the Gymboree Play Center and then the Montessori preschool. Fast forward to 2006, and I am back again in Gymboree, but this time around with my little 1-year-old Athena.

For my son's big milestone of "becoming legal," at least for reference to curfews, my boyfriend Bernardo and I threw him a rave dinner party at the Embassy Deli-n'-Ice Bar. As in all my dinner parties, I called on the creative juices of brilliant couple Wyc and Norman Grau of AdMedia Intl. (ADMEDIA@yahoo.com), a versatile graphics company that does invitations, giveaways, wedding stuff and a whole lot more.

CAMADUAN friend Bob Mendelsberg and Lucel Pujol

COCA-COLA Team with motivating head Cindy Alcuaz in the center with KIDS Foundation head Diether Ocampo

WHITE gang Elbert and Liza Cuenca and Mona and Sandor Tarnoca

COKE Light designers Rom Bala, Patrice Ramos Diaz and Raja Laurel

FAMILY friends Manny and Cozy Almajeran

HAPPY couple Isabel and Virginia Bracamonte

JUST friends Pete Oliveros and Jacques Duperouzel

VIVIANE directors Marietta Tarnoca and Josiane Elizalde

GENEROUS couple Dondo and Tess Veronica

MANILA Peninsula couple Heather and David Bandeiner

BIRTHDAY friends Tonichi Nocom, Ronald Pineda, Randy Dela and Hazel Calayag

SCRUMPTIOUS designed giveaways

Oh, Andrea

On a more international note, Andrea Fandraght, son of Princess Caroline, paid to the home of a visit quite recently. The dashing young man visited the Amado Velante Foundation, spending a week touring the various orphanage homes and the improved array of foods and vitamins as well as bringing fun for him and memories to the plight of abused and underprivileged children.

In one of his speeches, he said he has been truly touched by the children and is dedicated to give his continuous support. He united no amount of help is too small. With his generous appeal, everyone will surely follow his lead.

It's amazing to see what our children can grow into, whether one is a charitable royalty a racing actor or a talented designer or even just a young man. Finishing his last year of college, on the verge of something good, hopefully even something great, now that he's "legal."

E-mail the author at eagrimo@inquirer.com.ph

STUNNING Beauty Myrna Quiambao

JUST Bing's Jenni Epperson, Courtney Santos and Monette de Leon

ASSUMPTIONITES '81 Tessa Mendoza, Sea Princess Beatrice Bandolero and Lisa Trinidad

NUBES show off their muscles and wings at the Pride Parade in Montreal.

OUT THERE. Tennis great Martina Navratilova is guest of honor at Outgames opening.

SWEDISH athletes in drag at the Outgames

Gay games, 'out' sports

By Anna Leah Escobar
Contributor

He will never be equal as if we do not accept that others are as well. I am speaking about our individual and collective responsibility to rise up and denounce all forms of discrimination. I am speaking about respect, justice, peace and brotherhood.

—Gerald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal

SPORTS, CULTURE AND HUMAN rights. Ordinarily, these would be an incongruous combination. But for two weeks in July in Montreal, this was life. And one did not even have to be gay or lesbian to enjoy it.

The first series of activities began with the biggest gathering of international LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) human rights activists ever: over 3,500 from 106 countries. These included gays from Iran (where being one is punishable by execution) or Sri Lanka (arrested) and those who called themselves "exiles of love" because their marriages and equal rights were not recognized in their own countries. Like the United States, where there were, too, the LGBT parliamentarians and government officials of Austria, Germany, Mexico, Canada, Argentina and Brazil.

From the Philippines, there were five of us who made the journey to the shores. Dr. Mira Oliveros, president of Chi and professor of psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University, showed a full room a summary of her observation on same-sex domestic violence, while I reviewed the strategies that LGBT people in our country have struggled to mainstream recognition. I was impressed at how Asian-American parents were training PDAs in California schools how to accept their non-straight children, and how the activists from Quebec were commissioned by their government to train the entire police force how to deal with hate crimes and gender sensitivity.

I found it ironic that four of the five country countries where same-sex marriage was first legalized were among the very religious or Catholic: Spain, Canada (specially Quebec), Belgium and Switzerland. Of course, conservative politicians continue to play the anti-gay card to generate votes from right-wing sectors. But, at least in Canada, people have assured us there is no turning back.

At the closing of the conference, Martina Navratilova—the city's honored guest who also opened the 1st World Outgames—even quipped: "Now you've got here, you have to move forward... Unless you are in the drug on line!"

Like most LGBT people everywhere, Martina experienced isolation and discrimination.

Montreal plays host to first Olympics of 'dykes,' 'limpwrists' and 'pansies'—take that, Justice Cruz

even at various times in her life. Even at the height of her career, the greatest tennis player in the world—male or female—lost millions of dollars in endorsements after she came out as a lesbian. But, she said, she would not have had it otherwise. One cannot buy dignity and self-respect. Learning how to share her resources and reputation, Martina has established a credit card line—the rainbow card—which gives a percentage of all profits to LGBT establishments for each transaction.

At the moment, Montreal is the planet's LGBT home base. The outgames brings

ALL SMILES. The author (right) with Amerie

SAME SEX grooms on parade

PSYCHOLOGIST Mira Oliveros of Can't Live in the Closet (second from left), MP Ulrike Lunacek of the Austrian Parliament, with lesbian doctors, educators and lawyers at the Pride des Congres in Montreal

12,000 international athletes and visitors, some of whom will even take advantage of Canada's recognition of same-sex marriages, and schedule their weddings, too.

For now, the first city in North America to be designated by Unesco as city of design is a safe and joyful place to be for people like us. Dare one to the key word in Montreal, where being different and diverse is the coolest thing? Thank you from all of us who have had these few days to be the best we could be, together.

MONTREAL Mayor Gerald Tremblay and the city's chief of police at Pride Parade

FRENCH dad Lord cuts bonding at the Outgames opening...

...as are Toronto-based Pinoy mom Rose and Alyssa.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group shot(or close-up) with a photo of the couple (soft shot) of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, 3/F, Rm 2103 Makati Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

TUASON 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mario and Evelyn Alejar Tuason, California residents for 40 years, were feted on their ruby anniversary by their children Ronny (with his wife Ami), Sue and Rinky. A Hawaiian-motif lunch party was held at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills, California, attended by some 100 guests.

CHUA-CABALLO

Dr. Jon Robert Chua, son of Chua Chun Hong and Emily Chua, will wed Kyrie Cabalo, daughter of Eduardo Sr. and Julieta Caballo, on Oct. 1 at St. Peter the Apostle Church. Reception will follow at the Ramon Magsaysay Center. Coordinator is Rose Ann Mateo.

DEE DEBUT

Ms. Katrina Sumalinog Dee, daughter of businessman Ernesto and Jasmin Dee, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 9 at The Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. She is a freshman at the University of Asia and the Pacific taking up information technology.

CHU DEBUT

Katrina Erizard Y. Chu will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 25 at the Grand Ballroom Royale in Angeles City. Her gown, designed by Marlon Enriquez, is two-toned pink satin with beaded organza corset top and layered skirt, adorned with intricate Swarovski bead-work.

ALQUIROS DEBUT

Camille Alquiros, a sophomore BS HRM student of La Salle-Dr. Benilde Manila, eldest daughter of Cecilio and Monet Quiz Alquiros-Alquiros, will celebrate her 19th birthday on Aug. 27, 6 p.m., at Lilligan Manor, Tomas Morato, QC. Irene Quiros made her gown, while Hyng Aquino baked the cake.

RIVERA DEBUT

Melissa Rochelle Rivera, daughter of Hilrito Jr. and Ruby (deceased) Rivera, will celebrate her birthday on Sept. 1 at Hue Mountain Hotel, Baguio. She will be escorted by Glenn Bel Nario. The debutante will wear a headband gown with rhinestones and tie bench by Piggy Ingatan.

CALILUNG DEBUT

Marianne Calilung, daughter of Modesto and Antonia Calilung, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 9 at the Malaya Garden in RF Homes Parañaque. Theme of the event is "Fashionista Night." She will wear a headband gown with a ballet top in two-toned satin and organza in monochromatic shades from purple to pink, encrusted with crystals and glass beads. The gown and flower arrangements are by Jamel Lim Gullas.

CANCOZA DEBUT

Lia Angelique Cancoza, daughter of engineer Rhomulo Jr. and Glenita Cancoza of San Pedro, Laguna, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Hotel Benbenuto in Quezon City. The debutante's gown was designed and executed by Paul Rex Blanco of The Wedding Bug.

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Dessert buffet at Wedding Expo

HEDDY'S CATERING WILL showcase its Grand Dessert Buffet at the 9th Wedding Expo of the Philippines, Sept. 2-3, at the Philippine International Convention Center Forum, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Roxas Boulevard.

The buffet will include blueberry cream brulee, mango panna cotta, tiramisu, chocolate and vanilla mousse, chocolate truffles, and fresh fruits and pastries in chocolate fondue fountain.

Event producers in Themes & Motifs—The Special Events Collaborative Blancaflor of 1015 Weddings and Event Styling is the event stylist.

The expo will offer ideas, choices, discounts, and giveaways. Major sponsors include Wedding Essentials Magazine with My Wedding Book 2006 Magic Elegance Wed2 class bridal shoes and T&M Gifts on event packages.

For free admission, pre-register online at www.thetamotifs.com. Visit Themes & Motifs Showroom Center, Mekar Complex or call 2719782 or 8330976.

CHOCOLATE decadence cake, made with premium dark chocolate, moist in the inside and crisp on the outside, is served in margarita glasses. The blueberry crème brulée is a traditional French dessert with blueberry filling, topped with burnt sugar.

M SHOT glass dark chocolate mousse in margarita glass chocolate truffles

STRAWBERRIES, grapes, bananas, melons, mallows and apples dipped in melted white or dark chocolate cascading down a 4.5-ft tall chocolate fountain

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

THE AWARD-WINNING Greenbelt, one of three Ayala malls participating in the tourism drive, is expected to meet the city committed shopaholics.

Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano says shopping is now a tourist attraction. Shared on his left are Eduardo Ponce of SM, Charmaine Bautista and Myrna Fernandez of the Ayala malls, and Josette Sanchez of Ortigas and Co. Limited Partnership.

Retail therapy big come-on for tourists

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Boston, spring of hope and winter of despair

By Antonio M. Cuparoh
Contributor

IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, WE were experiencing one of the heaviest rainfalls ever.

The spring of hope had turned into a winter of despair. The whole of New England was literally underwater as all the rivers of the Merrimac had overflowed, delaying flights, grounding traffic and leaving Bostonians everywhere.

A state of emergency had been declared—a clear sign of the effects of global warming and climate change.

Thank God, the beauty of Boston and its architectural ambiance remained.

We strolled through Quincy's Market and the Boston Gardens, as well as the campuses of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Harvard has purchased a parcel of land in Allston to just say an expansion from, and has established the environment as a major part of its considerations.

Boston is replete with history, being the first settlements in the New World.

The corridors of Commonwealth Avenue and the quaint streets of Newberry and Massachusetts Avenue provide an inkling of its glorious past. But Copley Square and the old churches beside the modern John Hancock building illustrate how the old and the new can coexist.

Meanwhile, the Boston Common and the Gardens fill the city streets...including Beacon Hill where government offices are housed...still to prosper.

Boston is best during the fall, when the trees show off their multicolored splendor. It's a sight that, to me, is the most beautiful in the world.

Living in Boston will rejuvenate anyone. The diversity of people from all over the world and the many languages spoken make the city one big classroom.

They say that if you don't like the weather, just wait a while for it to change.

The sun comes out and disappears, followed by a slight drizzle. You hesitate down for the long cold winters, and then Indian summer allows you to enjoy the last of the sunny days.

When winter comes, the first flurries are a sight to share.

Center of culture

Oh, yes, I love Boston.

It remained center of culture and learning. Boston supports art museums, theaters, symphony orchestras and 250 colleges and universities.

FAMEUIL Hall Market Place at Quincy Market

COPLEY Square, Boston Trinity Church

Cambridge Square and its environs make up an eclectically rich community of tightly knit neighborhoods and academic institutions.

The Freedom Trail is a two-and-a-half-mile walking tour of 16 historic buildings, sites and monuments that documents Boston's remarkable contributions to US history. Marked by a conspicuous red line, the trail winds past the Park Street Church, the Granary Burying Ground (where Samuel Adams and John Hancock are buried), the Old State House and the Old North Church, this Charlestown's Navy Yard and Old Ironsides...

It is like walking through time.

And the Charles River that separates Boston from Cambridge—its waters are clean, and the fish caught from it make a delicious meal.

> Boston is best during the fall, when the trees show off their multicolored splendor. It's the most beautiful sight in the world

Energy matters

But as we roam the city that was my home for three years, I found that the IEEE Institute of Science in Society had published in 2006 energy report discussing the issues of energy should the planet survive, the use of renewable energy vis-a-vis oil, coal and dirty fossil fuels, as well as biofuels, ethanol, solar and wind power, and water.

At the same time, oil prices had reached another record high. Even worse, President George W. Bush had announced the deployment of 6,000 troops to the border of Mexico.

For the protection of Fortress America? What has happened to the land of the free and the home of the brave? What has happened to the land founded by immigrants?

The world has indeed changed and will never be the same.

Traveling the way it was—as in the book written by James Michener, "The Drifters," about the empty pristine beaches of Mozambique...is an error.

Just the same, the beauty of the Charles River brought me joy—and yes the New England dance were unobtrusive?

Indigenous peoples

On May 15, the permanent forum on indigenous peoples' rights began at the United Nations. The keynote address was delivered by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, a Kankanay from Baguio City who highlighted the many horrors that had led to this day, where the assembly will finally go into the social rights of indigenous peoples—a right long overdue. (Otra loo Morales of Bolivia!)

Even as Corpuz was delivering her address, the obscene industries of mining and logging were continuing to wreak havoc on our beautiful land. (Think of the mining activities in Mayoyao that are displacing people and destroying the tourism industry in Ifugao, Benguet, home of the famed rebels that is, and in Guiuna, Pambanga del Norte.)

More than that, environmentalists are being killed and up north in the Bering Sea, the ice is melting.

Global warming has taken center stage, as noted by Time magazine and other publications. This is no longer a joke; it is a clear and present danger (colonialism).

Crazy but true: Gone are the spring flowers, destroyed by the rains, gone are the days when one could sell spring lotus summers, winters and fall. They seem to all coexist at the same time.

But the Hanoi Climate Change Protocol has neither been ratified by our government nor signed by the US government. Have the efforts of "Kamikaz" and "Rita" been for gotten so soon?

Let us not forget: We have only one Boston, and only one world.

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines

TravelBriefs

ANDREA Hazeltine has been named new general manager of Traders Hotel Manila. The announcement was made by New Balance Hotel Development Company Inc., owners of the 202-room Roxas Boulevard property, and the management company Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. The 39-year-old Italian was formerly general manager of the Traders Hotel Chennai in India. Visit www.tradershotels.com.

New in-flight mag

Cebu Pacific is launching its own in-flight magazine in the last quarter of this year. The publication, produced by Ink Publishing plus, is meant to be hip, fun and smart. The inflight magazine contains articles on the airline's re-thinking and expansion program, OPB (onboard) monthly (it's Cebu) and Climbing routes and launched the Lingual service. And also publishes CNBC Companion business magazine and CNBC bi-monthly travel magazine. CNBC Traveller and CNN Traveller Asia Pacific.

Budget fare

The Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines (STB-P) announces the re-entry of Cebu Pacific Air (CEB) into Singapore starting Aug. 31. Filipinos will enjoy CEB's "Go" fares starting at P2,000 one-way including surcharges and taxes.

To celebrate the event, STB-P will give away Cebu Pacific passenger from Manila (Aug. 31-Sept. 5) one free Singapore Stopover document holder. Call 813 0041 or check out visitsingapore.com.

Family special

The Mandalay Manor offers the family Weekend Special, an overnight stay in a Deluxe Room for a family of four, two adults and two children aged below 12 is available for P5,200. The family Weekend Special includes a complimentary buffet breakfast for two, complimentary use of the swimming pool, free three-hour use of the Business Center, welcome drinks and complimentary airport pick-up.

The Mandalay Manor is at 18 Ramona cor. Crispa Streets, Pasay City. Call 552 1600 to 30, fax 5200820 to 38, e-mail reservations@mandalaymanor.com, please visit www.mandalaymanor.com.ph

VINTAGE UNIFORMS
Cebu Pacific will greet its valued passengers with a smile, superb service and a spectacle of vintage uniforms in the "Walking on Air" show until December in celebration of the airline's 60th anniversary.

Planning to be a long-distance mom

DEAR EMILY,

I've been so unlucky to love men I was very young. When I reached 30 and still loveless, I joined an Internet dating service in the hope of meeting a foreigner.

After two months, a retired American senior in age, saying he was interested in me. He came to Manila twice and began calling me regularly.

From the start, he told me he was unable to have children and, at his age, he did not wish to have any. I was strong with his decision.

After eight months, I was able to go to the United States to get married. He is nice to me and my life is ok. The only thing missing is a child.

So I begged him to let me undergo artificial insemination. The process is very expensive. He said yes and we're saving for it.

But he said I had to give birth in the Philippines and I could stay in the country for more than a year. He said I could not bring the child to the US since he had nothing to do with it.

My sister has agreed to take care of the baby, if I should have one, and I can come home often to visit.

My problem is, am I making the right decision in wanting to have a child? Will he later have me for abandoning him and not taking him to the US?

ANN

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

You entered this relationship as a mature woman but were your eyes clear wide? From the very start your husband has been very upfront and honest with you, declaring "No children" And you agreed.

Now, despite heading backward and agreeing to pay for the very expensive procedure, you can't blame him for not wanting that to lead to his life — much less have him in the US.

Sometimes — you want it, you get it alone.

If you are going to leave this child to the Philippines after birth — and it doesn't matter if the caretaker is a blood relative — what's the point in having him if you won't share yourself 100 percent anyway?

You're asking if your child will hate you for abandoning him at birth? He will definitely not call it abandonment because, as sure as the sun will rise the next day, you will probably compensate for your physical absence by drowning him in gifts and anything money can buy to make his life very comfortable, long-distance phone calls and yearly visits.

What you will possibly accomplish is a spoiled little rotten.

If you want to become a mother, you can start early in names and lots of sacrifice. With all the other stresses going on in the world, you should think of surrounding this new human being in so human, loving, responsible and caring. You cannot do that by remote control.

You should feel clear he can easily reach someone he needs to be comforted, hugged, consoled or cleaned. He'll want to be beside the person he can emulate.

Raising a child is a world away from just having the house you have worked hard for all your life and you can stay and take care of whatever you want. You can be an absentee owner without guilt.

But an absentee mother is a vulnerable child? Hmmm...

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer, Alfelor to Ms Marcelo as dear the program "Radyo Inquirer," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzRB 594.3 Mhz.

Kapampangan delicacies in fundraiser

THE CENTRO GOLOCO DE Bacolor is organizing Matanglom Pe-mangan: Kapampangan, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 27, at Barangay de San Antonio, Pan San Pedro, Bacolor City.

The event is a fundraiser for the rehabilitation of the Bacolor parish church, which remains half buried in lahar from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

The event is probably the first of its kind in Metro Manila. It will feature authentic Kapampangan food from Everybody's Café, Bacolor's, Bale Matalino and La Madrona Bakery among others. Other exhibitors will be selling dishes derived from family recipes and traditional delicacies from Cabalantian, Guagua, San Fernando and Angeles.

The venue is arranged with eating in mind, allowing guests to walk around and sample delicacies for sit-down for a meal. Takeout items are also available. Though food will be the focus, as the name suggests, the bazaar will also have Pampanga arts and crafts, including the traditional Christmas lanterns or parols.

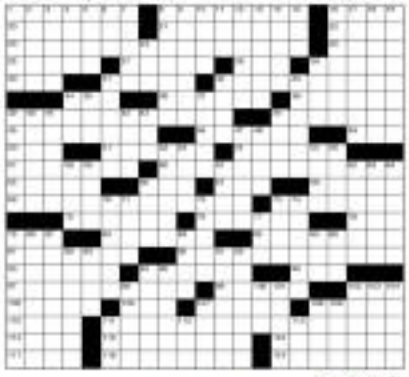
Visitors will also be entertained by Batapanga's best community theater group, the tent Inc. Bits. The group will perform traditional folk songs as visitors enjoy the various delicacies.

The event is expected to be an expatriate family day and an occasion for residents of Kapampangan.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

SUPPLIES



answer on page D4

Life springs from Ken's Creative Spirit

A creative force like Ken Kaess cannot be extinguished. His legacy as DDB Worldwide CEO remains pervasive and incendiary, a beacon in the creative revolution of DDB, one of the world's largest and most awarded advertising agencies.

In his passing, DDB Philippines Group of Companies adopted one and a half acres of the La Mesa watershed in his honor. The Ken Kaess Enclave is now home to 400 trees planted by DDB employees, a fitting tribute to commemorate the values, career and celebrate the human, humanity and leadership.

Executives of DDB Asia Pacific, including president and CEO John Zeigler flew in from Australia to join the tree planting held recently at the La Mesa watershed. Zeigler, together with the management and employees of DDB Philippines Group led by CEO Gil G. Chua, got their hands dirty planting seedlings at the Ken Kaess Enclave where the lush greens will take root.

With Kens passing, DDB Philippines thought it was a great opportunity to dedicate an activity like this," said Zeigler. "This is not only a great community effort but also a great way of people getting together to do something in a way that is bigger than ourselves and bigger than our business."

Connecticut-born Kaess had been associated with DDB for 35 years, having joined the Doyle Dane Bernbach New York office in 1977. He went on to become vice president of children's programming at New World Entertainment where he was instrumental in the Emmy award winning Muppet Babies. In 1986, Ken returned to DDB as president of DDB Entertainment in Los Angeles. After a decade of successfully rallying the DDB philosophy "Better Ideas, Better Results," he became worldwide CEO in January 2001.

DDB Philippines, through its DDB Cares initiative, has been involved in various philanthropic activities, including Energy Conservation, Children's Lab, Philippine Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, and Radio Veritas.

John Zeigler, a native Australian, started his career with DDB when it acquired his integrated marketing service agency, Kaczynski and Zeigler, in 1989. Zeigler is the former worldwide chairman of Tribal DDB, the world's leading creative communications agency. As the current chief executive of DDB Asia Pacific, Zeigler oversees the agency network in 14 countries throughout the region.

DDB has been twice named The Gunn Report's Most Awarded Agency Network, Adweek's Global Agency and 4A's Global Network of the Year. DDB is a four-time winner of the Clio Agency Network of the Year, and has won more awards than any other network in the history of the Cannes International Advertising Festival. Global Interactive Industries Times DDB named Adweek's Interactive Agency of the Year for 2005.

DDB's top exec Jay Santiago, Manny Bonifacio, Chay Quiang, Lito de Joya, John Zeigler, Gil Chua and Roger Cuneo

DDB President & CEO Gil Chua

DDB HR Manager Julie de Joya gets her hands dirty on a cause

DDB Asia Pacific CFO Ray Quiang

Per John Zeigler and Gil Chua, there's nothing better after a hard day's work than dining at McDonald's and Pizza

THE MOA Mall of Asia is expected to be the biggest mixed-use among SM malls.

THE AYALA Group's Glorietta and Market! Market! malls are also part of DOT's new tourism campaign.

THE ORTIGAS Group's Thundervia will draw tourists looking for exotic buys.

Retail therapy big come-on for tourists

The Department of Tourism is adding shopping to the itinerary of tourists from markets already attracted to the Philippines

By Linda B. Bolido

FINALLY, THE PHILIPPINES IS about to cash in on a potentially major tourist draw—shopping.

Though overlord in Asian neighbors have long touted themselves as shopping nirvanas, the Philippines, as most Filipinos and foreign travelers already know, is a jewel that shopaholics-travelers have yet to discover.

But the Philippines has been slow in recognize that its many malls, bargain, and other shopping areas offering inexpensive but quality products can lure travelers as well as premier beaches and cool mountains.

In fact, even brand names may seem to be selling at bargain prices here to some foreigners, especially those coming from Europe and America. We're talking about the real thing, not the Tatiron or Gucci fakes you get in those small stalls all over the metropolis.

Lower taxes make the prices set tilts not significantly but seem chic if foreign visitors bought them back home.

And so, after being hung up for years on traditional tourist attractions—beaches, mountains, and, yes, women—the Department of Tourism has finally woken up to the fact that today's travelers, are a diverse lot, looking for something other than the usual (Thailand, it was reported recently, is even offering "custom-made" babies, letting visitors who come for fertility treatments to choose the sex of their child).

Tourism Secretary Joseph E. Durano said the thrust was not just to target "markets that the Philippines finds attractive, but [also] markets that are [already] attracted to the Philippines. This will avoid loss because [they] are already interested in the country."

Durano said even in the "most difficult" markets, some segments still found the Philippines attractive. The task now is to identify what "products" would draw them.

The DOT has already drawn up various packages—health and medical, adventure, ecotourism, cultural/historical, etc.—to respond to market needs. And now, shopping, for those tourists eager to be parted from their money.

Durano acknowledged that shopping was never formally promoted in the past but he had been told by many people that "they find shopping great in the Philippines."

Rita Ramos, head of DOT's Team Asia Pacific, said the campaign was initially directed at visitors from Hong Kong, to improve tourist arrivals from China's autonomous region whose residents are discovering shopping (value now. In fact, the department launched the campaign at the International Travel Fair in Hong Kong in June.

The campaign, Mabuhay Shopping Spree (that is ongoing until Dec. 31, aims to project the Philippines as an exciting shopping versus-tourism destination.

The DOT, through Durano, signed recently memoranda of understanding with four major shopping centers in Metro Manila that SM as for some of them)—Ayala Malls Group (Greenbelt and Greenbelt), Cityland and Megaworld Limited Partnership (Greenhills and Tiendesitas), Shoemart Malls! and SM Mart Inc.

As part of the campaign, partner establishments will give visitors shopping privileges like special discounts and freebies. Travelers will get privilege cards that can give them special gifts in certain places and discounts in places displaying the sign Mabuhay Shopping Spree.

The shopping privilege cards can be obtained at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from the DOT kiosks and from partner travel agents. They are also available in DOT concession offices.

Durano said, with this new campaign, the DOT hoped to encourage shopping tours. To support the campaign, the department, she said, would be conducting Mabuhay host training for shopping-tach/tourists.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Libre Onde Banal-Formose

For keeps

Store it with style /E2
What a pro can do /F1

High Sodium Puts you at High Risk

To food connoisseurs, salt is the spice of life. It's what gives flavor and distinction to different kinds of cuisine. Without salt, eating would cease to be the consummate experience devoutly to be wished.

Too much salt, however, can upset the normal balance of body fluids. Excessive sodium intake causes water retention and swelling (edema), which burdens the heart and makes it work harder to pump excess fluids inside the body. "Too severely the heart from overusing enough blood to sustain the functions of the different systems and organs.

A high sodium diet also causes high blood pressure, a major risk factor in heart disease and stroke.

DASH Diet. DASH which stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, is an eating program developed by nutritionists to help manage blood pressure. High in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products, it aims to promote cardiovascular health by reducing sodium intake to about one teaspoon a day.

While this may seem quite manageable, it is important to remember that sodium is an ingredient that lurks invisibly in many highly-processed foods. A cup of skim milk, for example, will have about 130 milligrams of sodium, or you really need to read the fine print on nutrition facts at the back of packaging labels to ensure a low-salt diet.

Tips for Healthful Eating. A low-sodium eating plan incorporates these basic reminders:

When cooking at home, use fresh ingredients and more herbs and spices to bring out the natural flavor of food. Season to taste. Look for marinades, stay away from convenience food items like canned soup and vegetables, sauce and seasoning mixes and microwaveable packed meals.

When dining in a restaurant, stay away from soups and rolls with salty crusts, as well as sauces and noodles. Request that salad dressing be put on the side and ask for salad greens sparingly. Ask that food be cooked without salt or monosodium glutamate (MSG). Opt for fresh fruits and vegetables and plain broiled, grilled or roasted meat, poultry, fish or shellfish. Avoid pickled, cured and other seasoned meats.

At fast food chains, skip the condiments, gravy and sauces. Better yet, eat at home more often to have better control over salt intake.

Less Salt for Long Life. Numerous scientific studies document the benefits of a low-sodium diet in managing blood pressure and protecting cardiovascular health.

To help in heart protection, take a glass of **Ensure** daily. It is low in sodium. Ensure is the only adult drink especially formulated with a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the dietary fat recommendation by the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program. It also contains plenty of antioxidants that help protect heart tissue cells from damage caused by free radicals. Use Ensure as a nutritional supplement, a meal replacement, or as a sole source of nutrition when unable to eat solid food.

Ensure your heart, ensure your life.

Call us at our Home Care Solutions for your free nutrition counseling at tel. no. 840-5555 or toll free line: 1-800-100-415-8C(S), text: type ABBOTT <space> your message, Send to 2327 (Globe) or 0917-888-2327 (non-Globe).

Ensure is available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

Heart protection
ENSURED

Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program

every part of your system depends on your heart. It is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits which may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by some unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack. Combined with proper diet and regular exercise, Ensure helps in nothing interferes with the way your body works.

Ensure's other heart healthy benefits include:

Low cholesterol – Helps keep your privacy aids free from plaque and cholesterol build up, which blocks the flow of blood.

Low sodium – Helps control high blood pressure, prevents swelling or edema, and avoids fluid build-up.

Low saturated fats – Helps prevent the harmful blocking effects of bad cholesterol and accumulation of harmful fatty deposits in your arteries.

Ensure your heart. Ensure your life.

Abbott

mercury drug

ENSURE

Ensured savings with the Bantay Kalusugan Discount Coupon

- ☐ Save **P50.00** on ENSURE Vanilla 400 grams
- ☐ Save **P50.00** on ENSURE Chocolate 400 grams
- ☐ Save **P100.00** on ENSURE Vanilla 1 kilogram
- ☐ Save **P100.00** on ENSURE Chocolate 1 kilogram

Promo Mechanics

1. Present and surrender this coupon at any Mercury Drug store and avail of discounts on participating products.
2. This coupon is valid for a single purchase (per item) only.
3. This coupon is valid from July 15 to October 15, 2006.
4. This coupon shall not be used with any other discount privileges or promotions.
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PCDC APPROVAL

For DOH-BHCD Promo No. 0701-1-2006

SO AS NOT to clutter the bedroom with personal effects, the Olives couple opts for shelves built into the headboard.

CUSTOM-BUILT cabinet keeps several fabrics within easy reach at the Santos-Ouh's rest house.

CUSTOM-BUILT etagere at the Olives home sits by a door featuring cartwork set on a sheet of opaque glass.

What's in store

Storage spaces are integral to living areas. Design should take them into account

Text by Alice T. Vergara
Photos by Jim Dalao-Fonacier

THE RIGHT STORAGE can do more than just put a semblance of order into your lives. As interior and landscape designer Ara Santos-Hufil has shown through her works, they can also double as a person's (or family's) medium of expression.

The doors of her kitchen cabinets, for instance, also function as picture frames featuring her collection of floral prints. And just like the said thing, each door comes with bottom and sides of glass.

Santos-Hufil furthered incorporate this idea on the side of each door to allow for replacement of the featured print. The same principle works in the series of drawers that features colored pictures of flowers her husband took decades ago.

"I love to introduce certain changes in my home every now and then," she says. "I change prints depending on my mood and the season. There was even a time I displayed pictures of my children and their cousins."

Each drawer, which keeps all sorts of Tupperware knickknacks, comes with inexpensive slides or drawer guides. In an act to tone her picture frames, Santos-Hufil did away with traditional drawer handles in favor of small, concealed grips.

Taking her cue from a traditional bar, she also designed an overhead glass organizer for her long-cherished pieces. With a pocket garden as backdrop, the inverted blue glasses look like lighted chandeliers during certain hours of the day.

PICTURE frames that double as cabinet doors in Santos-Hufil's kitchen come with secret slits to allow her to change prints depending on her mood and the season.

THESE cabinets in the Hufil family's study room are made of dust-purpose white board and can be easily detached without the need for cabinet handles.

TO GET much-needed privacy from neighbors without completely blocking off ventilation, the Olives couple hangs pots and pans before a room-like partition in the dining kitchen.

LONG-STEMMED glasses dangle from this overhead holder inspired by those found in a typical bar.

Old-fashioned

The same creativity is evident in a separate unit within the compound that serves as the chef's rest house. Designed to look like a traditional Filipino home, the unit comes with a kitchen inspired by an old-fashioned "bungalow" (Filipino cupboard).

As such, inverted drinking glasses are set on an uneven picket fence typical of those found in the side area of provincial homes. The unit's tiny bedroom comes with a custom-built futon cabinet.

But no matter how unusual your storage space is, says Santos-Hufil, function should never take a backseat to form (see photos of storage spaces found in her clients' homes). If anything, cabinets and drawers should complement your lifestyle.

Do you regularly host parties at home or do you prefer to treat your friends out during special occasions? Do you cook alot?

Are you clubbish or do you have a bunch of growing kids? Are you practical or a bit sentimental when it comes to keeping such possessions as gifts, keepsakes and heirloom pieces?

These questions and more need definite answers before you embark on designing and constructing a cabinet, pantry or room serving.

"That's why I make it a point to get my clients' inputs," says Santos-Hufil. "A one-size-fits-all approach won't work when it comes to shelves and cabinets. Our needs are dictated by our respective lifestyles."

Apart from materials, ergonomics should also be factored into the equation. Every item should be organized, but at the same time within easy reach.

Before embarking on designing and building storage space, says Santos-Hufil, it would help if homeowners make an inventory of the stuff they own and intend to keep.

They should take into consideration, for instance, which items are constantly used in the house and which items aren't. Which items are worth displaying and which items are better kept out of sight.

"Storage spaces are very important," she adds. "Cabinets should be integral to a house's design. If the supposed solutions don't meet the client's needs, then he or she won't be able to maintain the design or concept."

Without the right storage spaces, even the grandest home will turn into a mess in less than a month.

E-mail the author at storage@inquirer.com.ph

JAY Santos-Hufil, you can keep cookware and kitchen items within easy reach by designing a cabinet that matches your cooking habits.

TRADITIONAL Filipino bungalow cores with decorative piece boxes that function as glass holders.

BOB SEGOVIA and son turn the bottom of the stairs into a repository of old toy cars, cameras and memories of yesteryears (left). Keep these CDs and DVDs in order with a custom-built cabinet like this one (further left) at the Olivez home.

WORK & FUN CAN FUSE WITH NEW MILO FUZE

Okay. So you're too busy climbing the corporate ladder to have time and energy for fun and other activities outside work. And the only sport you're engaged in is the rat race. If you go on like this, you'll soon feel burned-out and frustrated. You've got to de-stress by engaging in sports, having a hobby, or simply hanging out with friends. Don't worry about finding spare energy for these. Because now, you can manage your body's energy supply with the help of new MILO FUZE.

NUTRITIOUS AND DELICIOUS CAN MIX

New **MILO FUZE** is the fusion of the natural goodness of **MILO** with **Actigen E** and the nourishment of **High Calcium, Non-Fat Milk**. This great combination optimizes your body's release of energy so you can put more life into your work and have a life after work. What's more, you get to indulge in that great **MILO** taste and benefit from the nourishment of **High Calcium, Non-Fat Milk**.

AFTERNOON BLUES

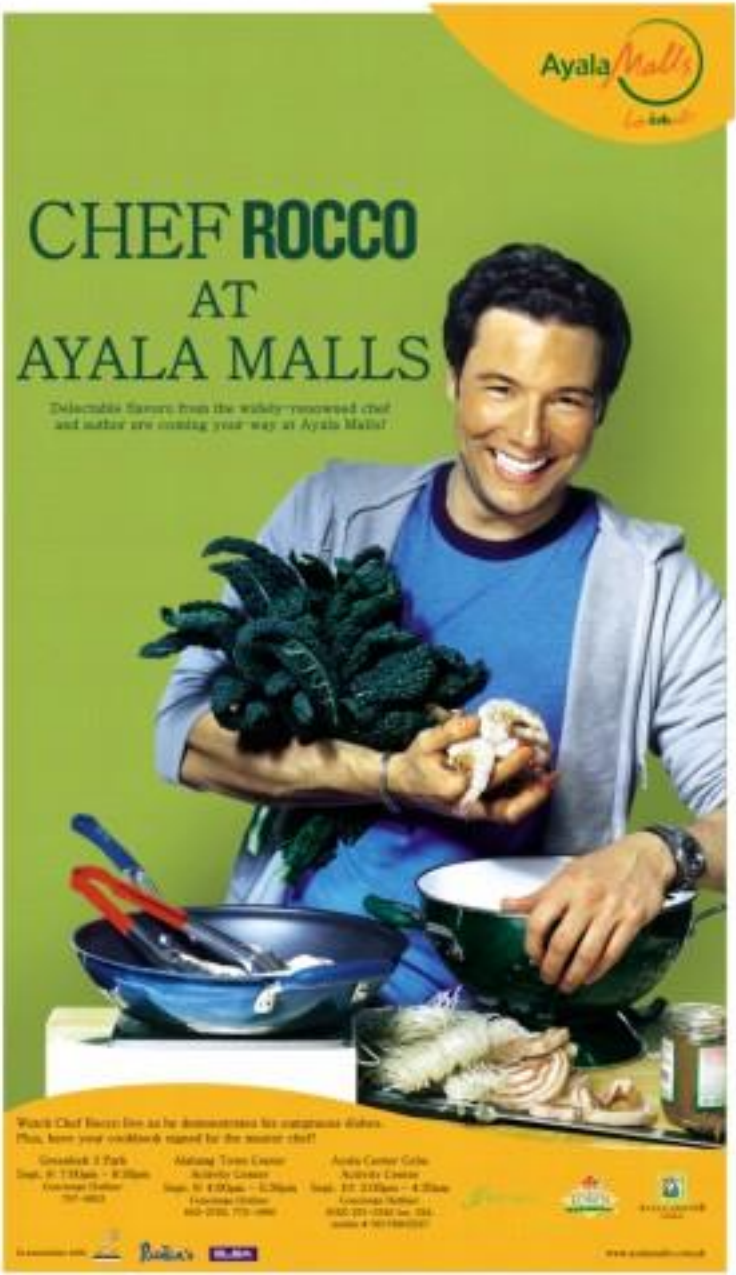
MILO FUZE is best taken in the afternoon – the time when you experience an energy slump that leads to reduced alertness and less productivity. With sustained energy from **MILO FUZE**, you can go on moving business with pleasure and stay on top of your profession and recreation.

AS HANDY AS YOUR MOBILE

MILO FUZE comes in easy-to-carry sachets so you can enjoy it at home, in the office, or anywhere. You can never have enough of energy at work and play, so keep a sachet in your purse, sports bag or office drawer at all times.

New **MILO FUZE** is now available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Have it all.



Wonder walls

PUT COLOR AND DRAMA ON your walls with an original artwork.

Displayed smartly, artworks can have a wide range of design functions—bring elements of a room together, create the illusion of more shelter around pieces, and set the mood.

You can establish mood by using lines in an artwork or its frame, or by arranging elements in a line.

Strong horizontal lines evoke calmness and give the illusion of width. Strong vertical lines convey alertness and make rooms seem taller. Diagonal lines express dynamism and add movement.

A tall painting highlights a narrow wall while panoramic pictures accentuate a wide panel. A series of paintings lined up diagonally on a stairwell has visual impact while a landscape in a small, windowless space opens up a room.

It's all related

Balance art to its surroundings.

When hanging art above a couch or a shelf, the bottom of the frame should sit within 5-10 inches over the furniture. Fit smaller pictures into narrow walls and keep larger works in wide, open spaces.

Shades within the artwork can be echoed by other elements in the room. You can bring out a painting by matching it to a contrasting color to the wall—a dark mat against a light wall, a light mat for a dark wall.

Combinations of lines, shapes, and spacing of objects can create rhythm. Objects of the same size and equally spaced produce a more placid rhythm. Alternating shapes in a tight cluster have a more restrictive rhythm.

Cover a large area with a group of smaller paintings. Grouping is less overpowering and makes the display more interesting.

A group of themed artworks can have a big impact. Repetition is also a simple way to create a dramatic and dynamic pattern.

Balancing act

Visual weight should be evenly distributed. Balance is essential. Symmetry is always pleasing, each half of the display mirroring the opposite side.

There are other ways to achieve balance. Instead of hanging paintings in a straight line, you can alternately offset them.

Grouping objects in odd numbers is a good technique for diverse items.

Some works may have to be displayed alone. Large, oddly shaped, boldly patterned, very dark, or very bright objects will look heavier than small, pale, solid, regularly shaped objects.

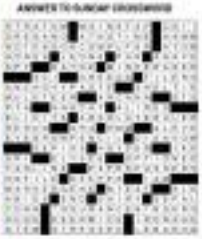
Visually heavy objects can be anchored to similarly heavy objects, such as a sofa, a chest of drawers or a grand piano.

Use picture hooks to hang artworks securely. The hooks should be able to carry the weight of the load.

Maximizing art gives it importance. Install track lighting, especially in hallways and alcoves, to draw attention.

To learn more about hanging art into the home, visit the month-long Philippine School of Interior Design's "Ohm Mantra" presented by the Advanced Class of 2006 starting Sept. 20 at the Ideal Store of Greenbelt 3.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Sunday LIFESTYLE

Artists' Fair
August 27, Sunday
The Loft at Rockwell

HOME at

Super organize me

Can't find anything you're looking for at home? Let a professional organizer help you

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

"Instead of selling words, I edit people's stuff and space."—Harriet Schechter, professional organizer

WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME what I do for a living, I reply, "I'm a professional organizer."

Nine out of 10 times they'd ask, "Weh, talaga?" And I'd say, "No, I help people organize their space for productivity," after some discussion, the inevitable question would be: "So, are you OC [obsessive-compulsive]?"

While a lot of people I've spoken with have never heard of professional organizing, it's really not that new. Professional organizing has been around since 1985 in the United States and now has spread across Canada, Europe and Asia.

It was around 2000 when TLC/Discovery Home's "Clutter Organization" and "Clean House" helped spread word about the professional organizing industry worldwide.

It's true there are the ultra-busy people who just don't have the energy or space in their schedule to do it. And there are people who don't know how because they are too busy having fun—organizing is a daily, common routine to operate on chaotic mode.

With or without the help of a professional organizer, investing time in organizing can give you peace of mind and help you be more efficient. You're able to find things without looking in five different places, and it reduces stress by relieving you of unnecessary tension and worry.

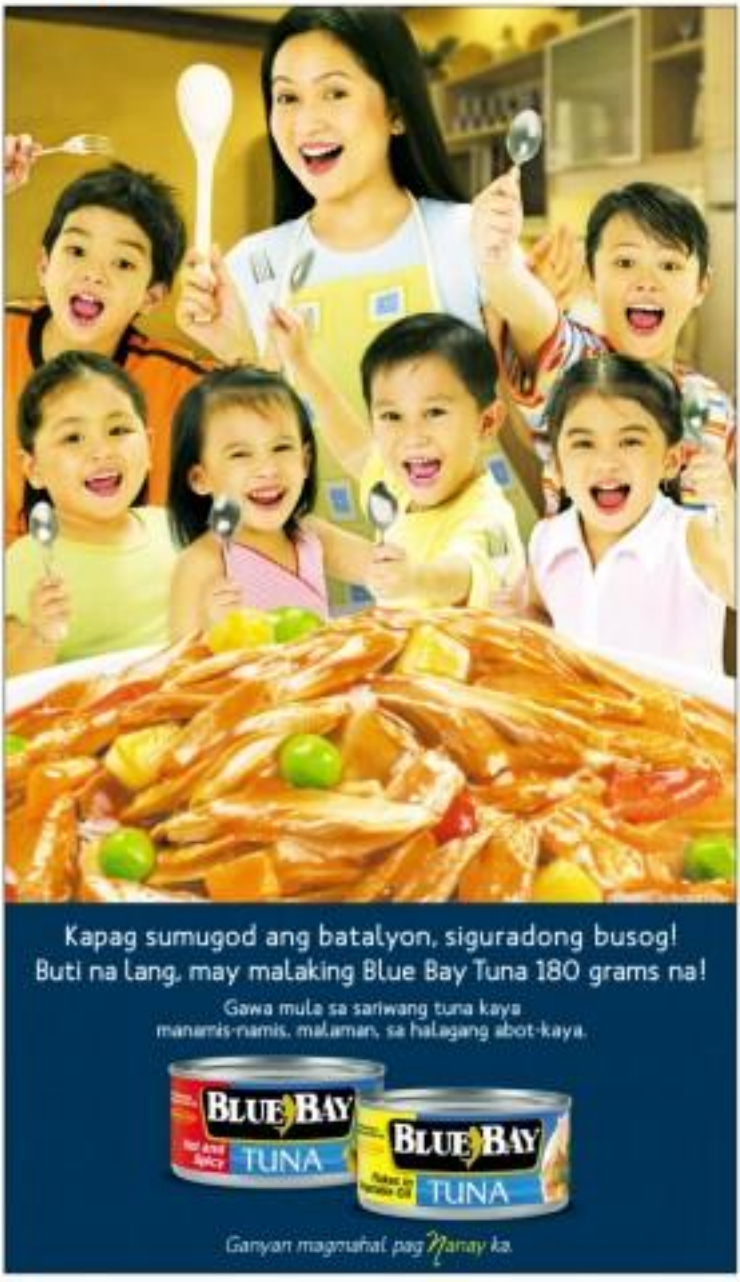
So, am I OC?

No. Professional organizers are thorough but not obsessively motivated. Some people fear professional organizers are going to turn them into some kind of inflexible mini freaks, robbing them of any spontaneity. The truth is, organization is to create efficient productivity and freedom than just neatness. POs will create simple and yet effective systems that will help you become organized enough, enabling you to focus on more important things other than all the hassle disorganization brings.

Hail. www.ripplegroup.com. Do you have an organizing dilemma? E-mail your query and get the answer posted on the next organizing article.

Do you need a professional organizer? The answer is yes if...

- You can't find things the moment you need them.
- You have trouble letting go or deciding what to keep or toss out.
- You'd like to get organized but you're too overwhelmed by the sight of your stuff.
- You keep buying things only to lose them among your many other things.
- There are multiple items stashed up around your home or office that impede movement.
- You're clearly inconvenienced by disorder.
- You yearn to transform your surroundings into a place of calm and order.



CLASSICO basket large

STACKABLE CD holder

MODULAR stacking bins and Twinset drawers

ART nipple bins

CEDAR hanging three bag and shelf sweater bag

Space savers and clutter busters

FOLDING chrome hamper

CONCEPTUALIZED IN JUNE 2000, leading retailer Home Specialist, Inc. created MakeRoom as a helpful and convenience retail concept that offers home and office solutions for the design-(functional-oriented) market.

MakeRoom provides a wide assortment of functional accents and space saver that allow for innovative storage solutions. Professionals and homemakers alike would find the items useful, since items are selected and crafted to fit today's busy yet fashionable lifestyle.

The MakeRoom spectrum includes MakeRoom Home and MakeRoom Office; all designed with sensible organization and are continually updated to reflect new trends.

Tidy up. Utility means include the modern five-tier pedal bin, art supply boxes for all the creative toddlers, and an adjustable Office dog rack to lessen the pain in your puppies stay comfy and clean.

Save on space. Efficient bags include the Cedar six shelf sweater bag and Cedar hanging shoe bag.

Too many shoes and too little space? You must have the 12-pair shoe rack in stock. MakeRoom also provides the small Folding chrome shelf and small standing drawer.

Kitchen aids. Essentials include a large Classico basket and the large flatware caddy. And cooking just got more exciting with the cooking mitt accented by stylish MakeRoom salt and pepper shakers or window retainer sets.

Bathroom bits. For your laundry, opt for the durable chrome hampers. Other necessities include the Classico tall round bin and Classico magazine stand bin.

For small functional holders, choose the Ivana bath collection which includes a hairdryer box, a toothbrush holder, a soap dish, a tumbler and a soap pump.

Office tools. Splash color on your office surroundings with the Modular standing bin in pink or purple. To keep files in place, own the Twin32 drawers and for pens, pins and notes and such these years in the small Tilt and Lock Tier a handy CD library Stackable CD holders are also available.

MakeRoom is exclusively distributed by Home Specialist, Inc. Shops are at 2/F, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; G/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; G/F Alabang Town Center; and A.U. Buzon's Department Store, Shangri La Plaza Mall.

Chest and drawers for kiddie stuff

HOW DO WE EFFECTIVELY teach our kids the value of being orderly and neat without compromising their privilege to enjoy childhood?

Cebu de Oro's two special chest and drawers, Rikhraff and Bambino, can be of help.

With its spacious drawers, Rikhraff can accommodate a wide range of items such as clothes, accessories and playthings. It can serve as a comfortable storage for your children's personal stuff.

Rikhraff comes in a non-neutral design and a glossy finish. Its multi-colored layers can be used as color coding aids, so that your young ones can learn where to place specific items and where to look for them afterwards.

Bambino, like Rikhraff, is made of layers in various colors, and is spacious enough to accommodate all your kids' personal belongings.

Manufactured by Duncan, these nice Cebu de Oro chest and drawers are made of premium plastic and boast superior craftsmanship. They are designed to help children appreciate order and organized environment.

Check out furniture and Kidstuff at leading department stores near you.

ORGANIKids Sofi

All-in-one kitchen rack

PLASTIC HOUSEWARE Industry leader Duncan introduces the Kitchen Queen, a three-in-one kitchen organizer that guarantees help in keeping kitchens clean and organized. It is a multi-purpose kitchen partner packed with a detachable kitchen bathe, spacious dish rack, and a cutlery and utensil organizer.

On top of the Kitchen Queen is a detachable kitchen bathe that can be used to store tumblers and mugs. It can also be utilized as food storage to help keep food safe and clean. Because it is detachable, it can also be used to serve drinks to visitors during parties.

The kitchen Queen's second tier serves as a dish rack that can keep up to seven-four plates. With its leveled surface, the dish rack can also store drinking glasses and mugs. The dish rack comes with a drainer to prevent kitchen ware from molds caused by excess water.

A cutlery and utensil organizer, with five slots that fit various sizes of cutlery on its third tier, goes with the Kitchen Queen. Similar to the dish rack, the organizer also comes with a wire mesh that drains excess water from the utensils.

The Kitchen Queen is available in blue, beige, red and green.

Organic products are made of high quality plastic material, making durability its primary attribute.

ORGANIK Kitchen Queen

BDO BANCO DE ORO

SUPER Value HOME LOAN

Loan up to 25 YEARS and get as much as P15,000.00** worth of gifts.

Visit any BDO branch or BDO On-Site branch today. See posters and flyers for details or call 631-8000

We find ways

BDO Home Loan

Now, o

P4

SOLD

How can a professional organizer help?

- By weaving systems and structure in your environment that help you functhat your lives.
- By helping you keep your commitment on taking charge of the chaos. Work becomes doable and achievable.
- By offering an objective point of view on your relationship with your stuff, allow ing you to gain new perspectives.
- By being an organizing coach or buddy who can recommend solutions, ideas and information and offering support, focus and direction.
- By observing you how to maximize systems.
- By helping you get results, customized to your unique habits and constraints.

Super-organize me

From page F1

What are the common fears of people who feel they need an organizer?

- "I'm embarrassed. I might be the worst of them all."

Professional organizers are rarely shocked with the amounts of clutter one can accumulate. We are the last people to be judgmental with "messy" people. We help people get organized for a living, remember?

- "Will an organizer make me throw away my stuff?"

The client is the final decision maker on what goes or stays. Organizers will ask you lots of questions that'll help you make the best decisions on what to do with your stuff.

- "I'm not comfortable with the thought that I'm admitting that I can't do this myself and have to hire an organizer."

Asking for help just means you're focused on solving the issue instead of procrastinating what other people are going to think. Simply put, you're just using proactive to solving a problem.

- "Is confidentiality guaranteed?"

Yes, it is guaranteed.

- "It might be too expensive."

If I asked you to put a price on your peace of mind and personal productivity, how much would those be worth? If those generation is major concern for you, then it is worth the investment.

Why get organized?

Being disorganized can cause serious consequences in the different areas of your life, such as finances, health, relationships and legal matters. Can't find the documents to support claims? Forgot to pay your bills again? People losing confidence in your ability to get things done? Always in high stress as you race to meet the next deadline?

"Being organized is not an end in itself. It is a vehicle to take from where you are to where you want to be." —Stephanie Winston Proctor&Gamble Consultant

Organization helps in supporting you in reaching your goals, it is your ally to success, whatever that might mean for you.

Homes featured are for presentation purposes only. Courtesy of Earth+Style.

TIBETAN bench

Storing, the Oriental way

ELEGANT 18C/19C ASIAN home furniture from China and Singapore Thomas treasures comprise the latest line to recently unveiled by Anna Marie Home in select Mitsu Fine Furniture stores.

The Ebony and Bone Collection includes exactly as names that reflect the Yin and Yang concept of balance. The stands for dark colors, curves and meandering lines and experiences while Yang is straight and linear. Smooth black lines paired with rich brass handles exemplify the look. The armoires, designed with slide-in doors and multiple drawers are perfect for hiding electronics, CDs and DVDs.

A modern splash of color can make an otherwise drab room come alive. The Tibetan Treasures collection is replete with interior inlets and carvings overlaid with vivid paintings of flowers, vines and geometric patterns. Massive chests, side tables and benches with drawers not only add beauty to any setting but provide much needed storage.

Now on its third year, Anna Marie Home has set the trend for varied interiors. The store has made popular the concept of re-purposing or finding several uses for a single piece of furniture. It has also debunked the fear of using big pieces in a small place.

BLACK Twin Pillages armoire

SOON TO OPEN

A State-of-the-art venue centre uniquely situated along the Bay with a view of the breathtaking sunset as it illuminates the velvet sky.

TWO-BEDROOM unit

Furnished, fitted and fabulous

IN THE TRADITION OF SOHO Central and South of Market, the country's first fully furnished, fully fitted residential condominiums, and Ilustrisima Ilaut Forbes, Asia's Best Residential Condominium (Asiaweek), comes Grand Soho Makati.

The 40-story residential condominium is a joint venture project of Century Properties Inc. and United Coconut Planters Bank, together with construction managers Hawa Liu Gotiaoco and architects Roger Villanueva and Associates. GSM prides itself on its location, affordability and world-class facilities and amenities.

Located in the heart of the Makati Golden Triangle (flanked by Ayala, Buendia and Makati Avenues), GSM is designed to be an oasis in the heart of the business and entertainment capitals of the country.

Built for urban young professionals, GSM provides unique and innovative services centered around the improvement of health, well-being and peace of mind of its residents. Aside from a fitness center, full-service spa, infinity pool, indoor children's playground, day-care center, business center, owner's lounge and multimedia library, GSM goes the extra mile with 24-hour concierge services that assist residents with transportation needs, laundry and dry cleaning, magazine and newspaper subscriptions, mailing letters and receiving important messages.

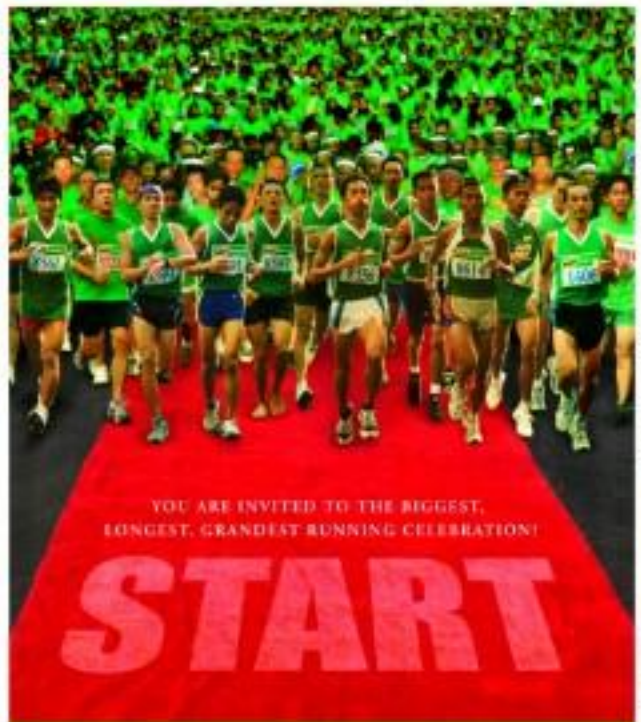
Another reason living here are sufficient storage spaces for cars near the parking area that allow residents to keep old luggage or bulky boxes containing miscellaneous items that may clutter their living space.

GSM is interested in giving buyers the best value for their money with flexible and interest-free payment options. For as low as P12,000 per month, get up to 45-percent savings compared to other similar developments 100 mt. downstairway ramps and massive free to worry about.

Give the good life at Grand Soho Makati. Call 10.89025, 8937800, 8913 7002000 or visit us at www.gsmcondo.com. GSM model units are available for viewing at 5/E SM Megamall Bldg. 4.

ONE-BEDROOM unit

PARQUET duplex



THREE-BEDROOM loft

STUDIO unit

ENTERTAIN

Editor Bonnie S. Valerio

'Kalimugtong' may tour schools nationwide

By Marinel M. Cruz

MES DE GUZMAN, director of the award-winning digital film "Ang Iisang Pirasong Kalimugtong," is seeking the support of the Department of Education to have his movie screened in schools all over the country.

This is according to De Guzman's older brother Ruben, who is helping the producers of "Kalimugtong"—Gremigo and Sampaguhakid Productions—achieve this goal.

De Guzman is scheduled to meet with DepEd secretary Ani Lapus on Tuesday to discuss a possible endorsement. Ruben told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday.

De Guzman is the owner of Gremigo and Sampaguhakid Productions, which Ruben described as small film outfits specializing in digital movies. "Diliman" and "Iisang Tuspo," have made the rounds of international film festivals.

"Kalimugtong" debuted and competed in the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival, placing second to Filipino hobby's "Tuli."

On Aug. 3, the filmmakers of Pe. Medang Filipinas bestowed upon De Guzman the Best Director Award for "Kalimugtong." It also won Best Production Design.

At the Star Awards, Batgirl-4 won Best Child Performance.

'Kalinaw' journey

Meanwhile, Jeffrey Jacaruso's "Kalinaw" ("The Bel Collector") has received its 15th invitation from the Amazon International Film Festival.

RAUMSTONG KI

ANAWARE—winning film about children of the Kankanay-ey tribe in Bangued.

5 going on 'forever'

By Nini Valera

"FIVE'S GOING FOREVER," DECLARED DELLE de Belen, co-host of GMA7's morning talk-variety show "Six."

The show seeks to entertain housebound women. The other hosts are Gelli's sister Janice and their good friend Carmina Villaroel.

Next week, "Six" marks its fifth anniversary.

"We'll have big stars, new gimmicks, and lots of other surprises," Carmina promised. "Next week will be really special."

Surprises

Janice—calmly tracing patterns on her crazy stitch sampler during this exclusive interview with Inquirer Entertainment on Wednesday—mentioned the bobby Carmina against talking too much about the month-long anniversary presentation, which starts tomorrow.

"We're not allowed to reveal details," Janice explained.

In fact, she added, the show had been kept going by "five elements of surprise."

Janice explained: "Everyday, we offer something different. Viewers never know what's going to happen."

The hosts themselves have had quite a few surprises.

"On our invited Mystica and Tito Sotto," Gelli recalled. "We didn't know there was animosity between them. We were [stunned] when Tito Sotto[sic] suddenly pulled Mystica's hair."

Another tense moment was when a stage stylist inadvertently exposed one of her breasts during a game. "It popped out of her top," said Gelli.

Fortunately, the scene was somehow cut and the show got no reprimand from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

"But I think the nursing pose in our show was when we starred from big animals," Janice recalled.

Abandoned dogs were paraded on the show to entice dog lovers to take them in as pets. Snakes have also been featured.

"We even had Chavit (Singson, Ilocos Sur governor) bring his tiger here," Carmina said, laughing.

The show's success appears to be the secret of a formula.

"Did you know that we initially shot the show inside a house?" asked Director Louie Ignacio. "We moved to a studio setting because we secured a live audience."

Two years ago, the show made room for Carmina to join the De Belen siblings.

Best friends

"That was when Gelli went on leave for about two weeks and they needed someone to patch-hit for her," said Carmina. "In the end, they kept me."

"Gelli and I are real life best friends," said Carmina. "Janice is a mere cross to me."

The chemistry make for some of the freshest moments on morning TV.

"We don't have to be told what to do," Gelli explained. "And we give each other space. When we have rough days, we keep our distance."

Sun now shines in
The University of Santo Tomas Hospital.

Sun's 24/7 Unlimited Services help The UST Hospital in giving better health care to cancer patients.

Dr. Karl Morales
Surgical Oncologist
Head, Musculoskeletal Unit

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Congratulations to The University of Santo Tomas Hospital on the opening of the Benavides Cancer Institute.

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Ugly divorce

LOS ANGELES — The latest high-profile Hollywood breakup is between Tom Cruise and his studio, Sumner Redstone, whose company owns Paramount Pictures, and the studio was pressing its 14-year relationship with Cruise's film production company because "his recent conduct has not been acceptable."

"We like him personally," Redstone told The Wall Street Journal. The Paramount chief, of late, has paid

DID YOU KNOW...

TOM CRUISE at the Tokyo premiere of "Mission Impossible III" in June. AP

Cruise up to $10 million a year to develop films and operate an office on the studio lot.

He has come under intense scrutiny after he jumped up and down on Oprah's couch, openly advocated Scientology, and ditched Brooke Shields for taking prescription drugs.

Celebrities shine in excitin

LAST SUNDAY, AUG. 20, THE EXCITEMENT level on Channel 23's "I Can Dance" reached its highest because the program's first season was having its live Grand Finals showdown.

The original 12 celebrity dance pairs had been cut down to six, and they all did their dancedrew to impress the board of judges, which included special guest juror Vilma Santos and Manilyn Reynes.

At first, we thought to ourselves that six pairs seemed to be an unusually large number for the finals. Couldn't they have been cut down to three instead, for a more focused sense of competition?

But there they were, all six pairs, so we had to accept that as a given, and joined the judges in unquestionably trying to figure out which numbers did better than the rest.

Sam Timoyo and her partner went first, and they impressed with their determination to put up a good show, and to take risks. Still, it was clear that some of their moves were tentative and nervous.

Jenny Miller and her partner Jarel Jacinto Jenny looked great and smoking in her tiny hot costume, and danced her heart out.

Nikki Ann Mendoza and her partner Jordan Sandiluby demonstrated no-vices, and took over-grooves risks on the dance floor. They came off as potential winners in our book.

Then it was AJ Dee's turn to impress the judges with the moves he made with his lovely partner. The most adventurous-rolling pairs of their routine was when he lifted her aloft with just one hand.

The mood of the competition changed suddenly when teenager Anna Villafuerte performed with her similarly matched partner. They combined ball-room dancing and hip-hop moves to great, disarming effect. That made them role high on our "un-official" scorecard.

Finally, beautiful Rhea David and her dance partner executed their stuff—a bit tentatively, but still tech-nically effect.

As the jurors took a long time deciding on the winning pair, we observed that all six pairs didn't take the finals for granted, and had obvious-ly worked hard to come up with strong and stylish routines in the city's intimate showdown.

This is a marked improvement on talk-or celebrity dance-offs, where some of the stars seem to have and under-rehearsed routines.

In fact, we were appalled when a

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

celebrity once boasted that his numbers for three hours should have rehearsed for eight.

Anyway, it was clear on the finals that all of the pairs h much longer than three mon why they were able to sh floor, and gave the judges a drenching which pair was the of the best-matched, lo

As for as we were concer the best pairs were Jenny's J Jamis and dewaris. These, ev heartened to see that our po of "final-finalists" all scored evening's first cut, and t among the fifth "Final-final" along with AJ.

But, which of our profe three teams would be dro the winner? We thought tha pairs of difficulty of moves rated, it would be a toss-up Jenny and Jarel Jacinto we weren't disappointed w the judges chose Arnas an petite partner, Noh Jamiels.

Their victory was an upset cision, because they were all's presumed favorites. Th But we thought that the ju creative team an astute cou cause it rewarded the win pair's youth, freshness and t ty, and would encourage t teen dancers to aim "ju rooms."

Feedback

Our pieces on this Wed new opinion in support of animal rights has elicited a r lot of reactions.

Jay A. Barrias obse "Animals will have his word on for him, because some pe have think that pets and other mals have no rights. They have that pets are there to serve their owners, and show grateful for whatever scraps throws their way. To exem that attitude is a tall order spiring a well-thought-out animal-campaign...

Edward Semeska of Ma City points out, "Any help our TV people can give to some, but the bottom line i pets pointed out, the ordina upholding animal rights. there, they're simply not t enforced, be, insects and p chicks should endure. That's the only language the lawyers will understand..."

New 'Harry Potter' film

A reader wrote to know w the next cinematic installm of the hit "Harry Potter" s will be released. Answer: BBS film, "Harry Potter an Order of the Phoenix," wil

'Kalimugtong' may . . .

From page D1

val in France, according to producer Joji Alonso. The festival runs from 10 to 19, and the movie will be in competition.

The MLF Films production, which chronicles three days in the life of a farming collective, will also compete in the Singkoli International Film Festival, Jan. 26 to Feb. 5.

'Sewing'

"Sewing up OC," the newest project of indepen-

dent filmmaker Khavn De La Cruz, will have its w premiere at the Int festival of New in Split, Croatia. From set lines in lead an the film is an "ultra-vi ode on serial rapist-k and the local an media," said Khavn De Cruz.

Originally in its nine the Croatian festival Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, movies cinema that is "innovative, personal, provocative, and ... subversive, preferably outside the mainstream."

g 'U Can Dance' finals

screen worldwide next summer, while "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" will be released at the end of 2008.

Digital circuit

Vim Tabio of Quezon City observes that even good digital features don't click with mainstream audiences, and wonders what can be done to make them successful. He believes that an alternative schools circuit should be set up.

Another possibility would be for Cinemalaya supporter Teodoro Calmergo to assign one of his Destec cable channels to exclusively screen digital films, book them or feature-length, to make them more popular and influential.

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4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	9 MIAMI VICE
5 LITTLE MAN	10 SUKOB

ERMITA

1 LITTLE MAN	
2 HADA	5 CLICK
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	6 SUKOB
4 MORTUARY	7 SNAKES ON A PLANE

METRO EAST

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	6 HADA
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	7 CLICK
4 LITTLE MAN	8 MORTUARY

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1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	3 MORTUARY
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1 STORMBREAKER	1 MIAMI VICE
2 TAMARA	2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 LITTLE MAN	3 WOLF CREEK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	4 LITTLE MAN

IMUS | **STARMILLS**

1 TAMARA	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MIAMI VICE	2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 LITTLE MAN	4 OH MY GHOST!
	5 LITTLE MAN
	6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 LITTLE MAN	1 STORMBREAKER
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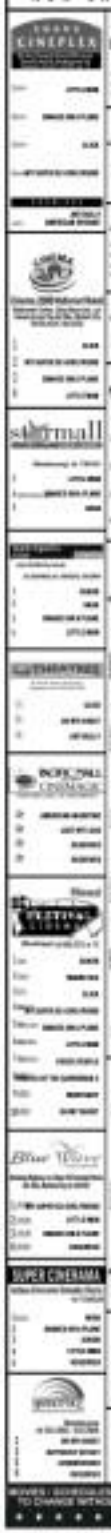

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

9/11 focus of Emmys, airing live on Studio 23 tomorrow

LOS ANGELES—FIVE YEARS AFTER the September 11 attacks, shows like "24" and "Flight 93" are making terrorism, espionage and war the focus of US television's 58th annual Emmy Awards ceremony.

Before Hollywood's movie royalties danced past 9/11 in theaters this year — with "World Trade Center" and "United 93" — TV began dealing with themes that have filled news programs for the past five years.

While so concentrating big bodes with 12 nominations was Fox's hit series "24," starring Kiefer Sutherland, there 9/11-related films and documentaries also garnered nominations at this year's Emmys.

Cable channel 4 and It's "Flight 93," a portrayal of the fourth Al-Qaeda-hijacked plane that crashed in a Pennsylvania field after a passenger uprising, has earned six nominations.

Discovery Channel's "The Flight That Fought Back," telling the same story, picked up one nomination, as did National Geographic Channel's "Inside 9/11." Showtime's "Sleeper Cell," a drama about underground terrorists in the US, got five nods.

Conan is envious

There were six nominations for HBO's documentary "Baghdad ER," a vivid portrayal of the 86th Combat Support Hospital treating wounded US soldiers in Iraq.

"24" tallied in nominations in its fifth year, including one for Sutherland, who plays super agent Jack Bauer, for Best Lead Actor in a Dramatic Series, and one for the show itself, for Outstanding Drama Series.

The awards in a total of 27 categories will be announced in a ceremony televised live today from New York. Conan O'Brien, himself nominated in the comedy category, he faces competition from the "Daily Show's" Jon Stewart and his correspondent Stephen Colbert, stars with his own "Colbert Report." Competing with "24" for Best Drama Series is hospital show "Grey's Anatomy," which had 10 other nominations; "House," another hospital show; "The Sopranos"; and "The West Wing." AFP

ROUNDUP

Celebrity boxing

Model-duelers Mill and actors Bayani Agbayani, Niko Ilustre, Christian Vasquez, Ferlie Paraiso and Sunnard Montano are set to punch their way into Manila Broadcasting Company's (MBC) Celebrity Boxing extravaganza dubbed as "Bakbakan '06" today at the Aliw Theater.

Star Cinc guests with Boks All Sets Can pay tags will be granted free admission.

MBC, parent company of DzRH, Love Radio and 'Sti 958, is the country's largest radio network.

'Hide and Seek'

After his wife is found dead in the bathtub, Manhattan psychologist David Callaway (Robert de Niro) takes his traumatized child Emily (Dakota Fanning) to a big, gloomy country house upstate in "Hide and Seek."

Emily makes friends with someone named Charlie, whom her father believes is imaginary.

The movie airs tonight at 9 on Star Movies.

'Kama Apna Apna'

"Kama Apna Apna" is the journey of a small town girl from a small hamlet of West Bengal whose life throws her into alien terrain, where she struggles with her new circumstances. Her fears and confusions.

The movie, which airs Mondays to Thursdays, premieres Aug. 28 at 9 p.m. on Star Plus.

Pomerans at book fair

American singer David Pomeranz performs at the opening ceremonies of the 27th Manila International Book Fair at the Philippine Trade Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Roxas Blvd., in Pasay City, yesterday. AP/Bullit Marquez

Pomeranz is an advocate of the book "Dismissive: The Modern Science of Mental Health," written by the late author and his mentor Dr. Hans Eysenck.

"Dismissive has completely exited my world," says Pomeranz. "It has helped improve my music and career, has made my marriage even stronger and given me such joy and peace of mind that I can't wait to share it with my friends in the Philippines."

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Aside from its unbeatable technology, the Sony Sparkling WEGA will now also offer you unbeatable deals with the "Wish upon a WEGA" promo. Each purchase of the following models of the Sony Sparkling WEGA automatically gives you an equivalent number of entries to the "Wish upon a WEGA" promo.

Simply fill out the warranty card that comes with your purchase of any participating model of a Sony Sparkling WEGA and drop this off in any of the drop boxes located at Sony Sparkling Wega authorized dealers.

Other prizes in this promo are 100 Sony DVD Players (DVP-NS715), 20 Sony Home Theater Systems (DAV-DZ170K), 30 Sony WEGA Theater Systems (HCD-ZG1DH), 10 Sony DVD Handycams (DCR-DVD505).

But wait, there's more! Each Sony Sparkling WEGA bought within the promo period automatically comes with an exclusive Collector's Edition CD/DVD of Ms. Sharon Cuneta's gold-certified "Isa't-Isang Ikaw" album.

The grand draw will be on October 27, 2006, at the Sony Philippines Office. If you are one of the lucky winners, you will be notified via registered mail and text message. You can redeem your prize within 60 days from receipt of notification. When you claim your prize, present 2 valid IDs, the official receipt of your Sony Sparkling WEGA purchase, your copy of the warranty card, the registered mail and SMS advisory from Sony Philippines.

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ENTER

Giving away over $1M; fellow Fil-Am beats Cheryl

HOLLYWOOD Foreign Press Association treasurer Jorge Camara, actor Mare Ruffalo and actress Felicity Huffman at HFPA installation luncheon.

DIANE Lane and producer Irwin Winkler

LOS ANGELES—BEING PROUD OF THE two Fil-Ams who shone at the 58th annual Creative Arts Emmy Awards (a separate event from the prime time Emmy Awards) last weekend at the Shrine Auditorium: Charlbi Dokpesi and Cheryl Burke.

Along with Kenny Ortega and Bonnie Story, Charlbi was over Cheryl for their choreography in the Disney Channel's "High School Musical" (which stars Vanessa Anne Hudgens, another Fil-Am). He has danced for various singers, from Celine Dion to Salt-N-Pepa. Cheryl was nominated twice in the Best Choreography category.

* * *

WHEN the journalists' group that I belong to, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), recently had its annual financial grants and installation luncheon, I found an excuse to wear my white summer suit.

Finally held in the June of August, and therefore always a perfect opportunity to get into the comfy and breezy mix, the luncheon is when the HFPA gives over $1 million to support film preservation, film schools and other worthy film-related, not-for-profit organizations.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruthero U Nepomuceno

Before I left the house, when my daughter Nikki saw me in my "tuksedow as you" suit, she had that smile and look that teenage daughters give their dads. I mean the one that says...if Nikki could express it in Tagalog: "Ang sarap ko—napaniwang komuro na Jolan Tuxedo." She made me change the tux down to my underneath into a light blue one. She wanted me to change my tux shoes as well. I put my foot down—pardon the pun—on that one and ignored my budding wardrobe consultant's wisdom.

Third year

This is the third straight year that the HFPA has given away more than a million in donations. During the last 12 years, our group has donated more than $1,500,000. The association was one of the first entities in Hollywood to donate to the Asian tsunami relief effort: just give $250,000.

Where do we get all this moolah? From the TV rights fees to the Golden Globe Awards, which are telecast live every January. As Phil Berk, my colleague and HFPA president said, "We are thrilled that the success of the Golden Globes allows us to be so generous."

The event, always held at the Beaux Arts museum of The Beverly Hills Hotel (also known as the Pink Hotel because of the hue of its exterior), also serves as an introduction to our group's cast of officers. I always enjoy this because it will be a year before we see them again, and it is a chance to reconnect and hear some of the funniest and story-deadline pressure of the Golden Globe Awards itself. The guests mingle

(CONTINUED ON H2)

LISA Rudow

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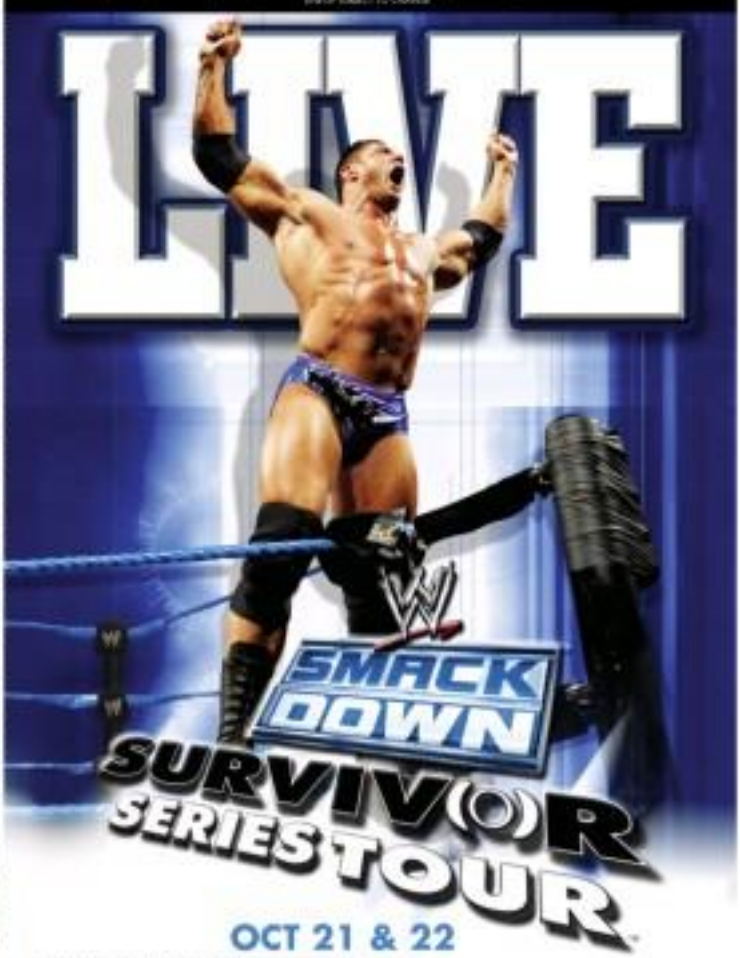

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in the hall as champagne and hors d'oeuvres are served. By the time the ballrooms doors are opened, everyone's in a contented mood.

Here's what The Hollywood Reporter's Martin R. Gross wrote in his coverage of the event: [poor guy was working while I dipped champagne]: "Thursday's luncheon was almost a mini-Golden Globes with plenty of star power — including such names as [alphabetically] Annette Bening, Bill Condon, James Franco, Dustin Hoffman, Lisa Kudrow, Diane Lane, Jack Nicholson, Edward James Olmos, Christina Ricci, Mark Ruffalo, Forest Whitaker and master of ceremonies Felicity Huffman. As one very pleased HFPA member's executive told me, 'We've got about as [that of the] star power here today that we get at the Golden Globes! The afternoon's great celebrity

MYTHOS • PG-13

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—Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]

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Well-orchestrated

Martin continued: "It was a[ll], but meeting affair with pa[rt]ner.

It toured the time dessert was served, the check giving [chance] at the host began. [Co]medy that afternoon, [Ja]ck the actors who accepted th[e] behalf of the deserving orga[ni]

Jack Nicholson, [who] inches each, congratulate[d] to [a] he announced up the [$]1,000,000 on behalf of The [Fi]Inc., which is committed [to] preserving valuable films. [A]inker's gets, Jack quipped, [I] would just be accepting a [c]than I'm comfortable doing [a] ing a speech."

Christina Ricci, she with[s] star large eyes, a refreshing [c]nally no makeup, accepted [t]fundance festivals, whose [fi]mond Initiative supports [f]around the world through [t]dialing the Sundance Film [P]ners Film Program.

Annette Bening, actress [o]ren Beatty, gladly took a $[1]FilmAid International, whi[ch] "AIDS, Katrina, peace acc[ess] forces" that serves Sudan[ese] refugees in Kenya.

Mark Ruffalo, sporting [a] goes with his shock of [re]$200,000 from my colleagues [i]behalf of IFF three-inch mon[ey] they can break into the Film[m]

Sollosso effort

Extolling IFP/West's "Progra[m] pubs community outdoor with [a] makes, Mesh said, "It's a refl[ec]for the entourage of movie [s]and self-absorbed. I listen[ed] cross." As he said the words [s]disturbed," he pursued mem[o] the audience laugh.

When Gina Kaufman went [t]the table saw an an after sha[re] raised a donation for the [A]City Arts and was Jeanne Pa[ul] give her a stunning, well-[d]per on the back. Parent Wha[rt], a gifted actor who classe[s] seen in more movies, did the [s]sequence duty for time-[s] Filmmakers.

From the heart

Arnaz spoke from the h[eart] when he aired message in ev[ery] $20,000 for the California S[tate] Summer School Arts Foundat[ion] which provides enduring [p]grams for California high sch[ool] academic tabs owed to the [A]The actor told the audience [t]he himself had benefited [f]this program.

Arnaz, who starred with Lu[cy] Mistaken as "The Great Ga[mb]shared, "It changed my life [f]high school student] in [a]second. She attended [pr]God in his wisdom cut, fig[ured] shortened suit, the actor rem[em]ed no scrimshaw of Gary Sa[ge] some. The message rose in the [a]spins in me, so this day, I [t]think in terms of, for instance [t]dowdy Hollywood actress [J]ma[ha] ni Al Al de las Alas."

Diane Lane had cut her [h]short, as she Didn't quite look [a]6-Al the afternoon. Fetchingly [a] green and white dress, the "[s]bilated" star collected [$]20,000 checks for the minor [C]Cinematheque, one for the G[ra]ys Globe Award foreign [l]ganga film Nuestra Tierra [w]office public dialogue with [t]filmmakers behind the movi[e] el verde in that category].

DIANE Lane and rising actor Efren Ramirez, who benefited from a mentoring program run by one of the non-profit organizations that the HFPA gives grants to.

JACK NICHOLSON, left, receives a $100,000 check for The Film Foundation, Inc. from MPA president Phil Beth.

EDWARD DUNDS accepts the check for Native Association of Latino Independent Producers.

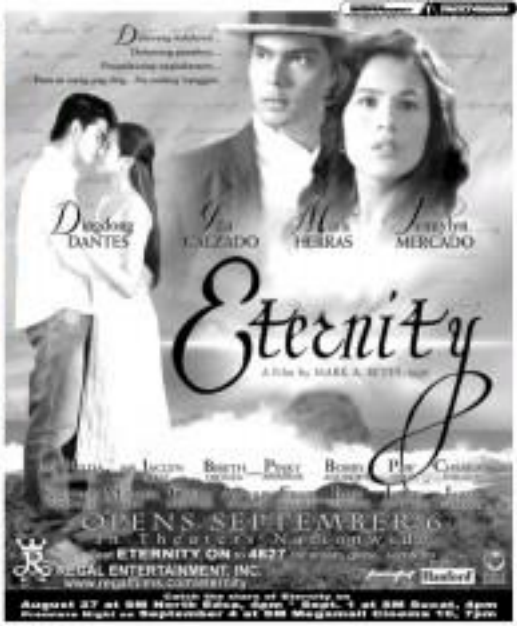
CHRISTINA Ricci

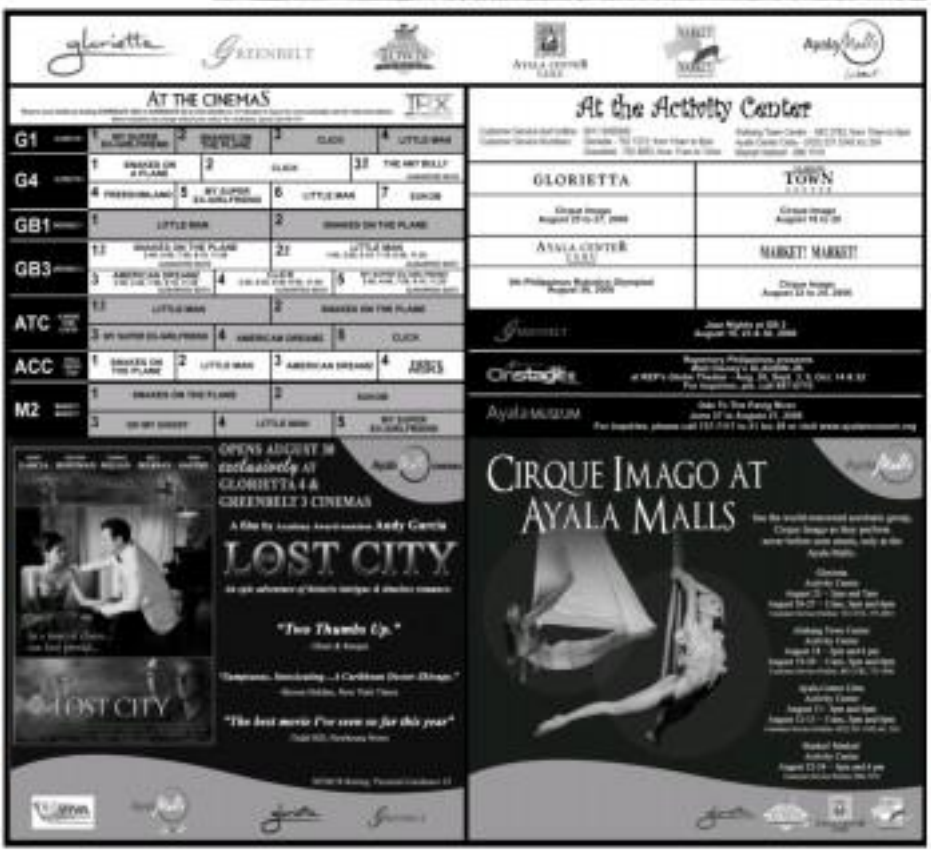
tribute to world cinema leaders.

Dustin Hoffman kept the luncheon's jovial mood as he stepped up for the Los Angeles Conservancy dedicated to the preservation of the surviving movie palaces in LA and the appreciation of classic films. As M. herself has performed at the Orpheum Theatre, one of the majestic old movie houses that the Conservancy helped restore in its former glory.

Incidentally, in one of our previous interviews with Dustin, he suddenly asked a senior colleague of mine, "You're still here?" He thought we were wallowing in all this money from the Golden Globe TV rights. So Dustin was surprised that this elderly journalist had not retired. The actor was reminded that the HPA is a non-profit organization so we don't receive a single cent from the TV rights.

DYING to





Giving away over $1M...

From page B6

To Pelkey's amusement and much random merriment, Dustin initiated the servers' earlier near collision with a big replica of the Golden Globe Award trophy as she stepped back to give the spotlight to a speaker. He thanked his wife many times for patiently taking the expiration bench he had ordered because the recipients since that came with the dish "trained it for me."

Dustin also thanked the HFPA for holding the final leech of the Rodeo Ballroom's location, he said, is reminded him of the bat mitzvah (Jewish coming-of-age ceremony for girls) that he and his family had held in the exact same room for his daughter.

DUSTIN HOFFMAN, Felicity Huffman and Jon Heder

Jewish ring

Or jokes that he will be quick with his remarks because a bar mitzvah is going to be held at the room right after the luncheon. Continuing his Jewish rifts, the Golden Globe award winning actor quipped that he will presumably HFPA in two syllables, "Hill-pah," to further speed up the proceedings, plus the abbreviated term has a "Jewish ring to it."

And so Edward James Olmos who thanked the "Hil-pah" for its donation to the National Association of Latino Independent Producers, Inc., which trains budding Latino filmmakers and supports film projects. Earlier, on our way into the ballroom, Edward, who is a distinguished humanitarian nominated on various causes, told me about his project, a documentary on mariachi.

Salma Hayek-her film-related charities and educational institutions also received financial grants.

And then it was over. I stepped out into the golden California sunshine, very glad to be a member of "Hil-pah."

E-mail the columnist at vmpulsi_55@yahoo.com.

ACTOR-DIRECTOR Forest Whitaker and his wife, actress-model Keisha Whitaker, walk the red carpet.

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